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AGAWAM Advertiser News

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Agawam Basketball . . 12

INSIDE

Arts 23
Business 18
Education 11
Public Safety 8
Sports 14
Classifieds 19

20 PAGES



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Ryan Lukas, 4, gobbles down some pancakes and sausage as she and her sister Kiley, 6, wait to visit Santa at the Agawam Junior Women's Club breakfast on Dec. 7.

A Christmas tradition

Hundreds greet Santa Claus at Junior Women's Club's annual breakfast

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications Correspondent

It was three weeks before Christmas and the children definitely weren't nestled snugly into their beds. But they still had visions of seeing jolly old St. Nick.

One recent Sunday morning the Agawam Junior Women's Club (AJWC) transformed the Doering Middle School cafeteria into a magical place known as the North Pole. More than 600 people came to the event — 301 adults and 308 children — to enjoy what has been an Agawam tradition for nearly three decades.

Santa breakfasts abound each December, but the club's annual breakfast with Santa — and Mrs. Claus, too — is a favorite among Agawam families. In fact, it's one of Courtnie Evans' favorite Christmas recollections while growing up in Agawam is coming to the same

Please see SANTA, page 10



Jackson Bryant, 5, arrived early at the breakfast, and was among the first to see Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Planner to retire after 3 decades

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

When Deborah Dachos started her career at Agawam Town Hall, a town planner was a luxury for many communities.

Now, 33 years after becoming the first planner in Agawam's history, Dachos has decided to retire, announcing her intention to leave her position on Feb. 13, 2015.

Dachos, officially known as the Planning and Community Development Director, has helped guide Agawam through a modernization of its zoning and development of its business and industrial districts. She has also helped guide the town through the processes of grant funding and historic preservation.



Deborah Dachos

Now, Dachos says she is ready for the next step in her life. She is hoping to spend some time vacationing in Maine, and may later decide to pursue another profession in her spare time.

"I have really loved working for the town for the last 33 years," said Dachos. "But the job does come with its stresses. I definitely would enjoy doing something that is less stressful.

Dachos started out with a bachelor's degree in government and began working as a planner at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. She later obtained a master's degree in planning from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and worked for a short time in Fitchburg.

The towns of Agawam and Amherst were then advertising for planner positions, and she applied.

"I was looking for a shorter commute to work," said Dachos. "I really loved the interview process I went through here in Agawam."

Staying in the same position for nearly one's entire career is a rare now. Dachos says the people at Agawam Town Hall and members of the community are the reasons she has stayed on for so long.

Please see PLANNER, page 6

'Spectacular' benefits Latin American mission

By Michael J. Ballway
Turley Publications Staff Writer

Pastors at Bethany Assembly of God describe this weekend's performances, which are free to attend, as their Christmas gift to Agawam and surrounding towns. But it's more than that. It's also a gift to classrooms full of needy children in Central America.

"The Nativity Symphony," the 40th annual Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular, opened Dec. 5 and continues with performances at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and at both 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. There is no cost to attend, but the church will collect donations to support Latin America ChildCare, a mission group building a school in Panama.

The presentation includes symphonic sound from a mixture of volunteer and professional musicians, a 70-voice church choir and a complex light and projection show. It's funded entirely through the church's annual budget, and members of the mission trip will pay for their own airfare and lodging. All money raised in donations is spent on construction costs in Panama.

"Not a penny stays here," said Music Minister Ken Bryars. "It's all for kids."

Residents of 24 de Diciembre, a district of Panama near the nation's capital city, will use the donated funds to buy construction materials. Later this winter, about two dozen members of the Bethany congregation will arrive on their 11-day mission trip. Last year, Bethany helped build a four-classroom, two-bathroom schoolhouse; this year, they plan to add a second story.

In previous years, Bethany has teamed up with LACC — an arm of the international Assemblies of God organization — to build schools in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua and other Latin American countries.

Pairing a Christmas production with a foreign mission is a natural match, Bethany Senior Pastor Richard Adams said.

"Jesus came [to us] to be a gift," Adams said. "We celebrate him in the Christmas service, and then we embody him by also serving."

Please see TREE, page 7



Turley Publications photo by Michael J. Ballway

Soloist Phil Bonk sings "Christ is Come," accompanied by the Bethany Choir, during the Dec. 4 rehearsal.

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New DA: Old ways of policing won't work

Gulluni meets with AHS students, community leaders

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications Correspondent

The county's district attorney-elect met recently with a cross section of Agawam community and school officials as he prepares to assume the top elected law enforcement post.

Anthony Gulluni stopped at Agawam High School early Friday morning, Dec. 5, to talk with a group that meets meets monthly to share information about Agawam students. The diverse group of about 20 people — school administrators, community members, clergy, health professionals, school police officers, and students — talked with Gulluni for nearly an hour.

Gulluni said he looks forward to working with Agawam's school leaders and its community partners.

He said community groups like Agawam's are part of a growing trend that are crucial to the "ultimate success" of helping troubled youth.am group part of a growing trend. The Agawam meeting gave Gulluni "a sense of optimism" about the growing recognition that community collaborations can make a difference.

Gulluni added that community-based approaches are now considered more effective. The old ways of policing — the "heavy-handed, us-against-them-approach, the lock 'em-up and throw-away-the-key-approach" — are largely viewed as "ineffective," he said.

"We can do the work in the courtroom, but from my perspective — and when my administration starts — we're going to do a lot that is outside the courtroom," said the district attorney-elect.

Gulluni, 34, will be the youngest person to become the county's DA. He joked that he's so young that he was asked for a hallway pass on his way to the meeting. But he takes his job very seriously.

He's not officially the DA until he's sworn in Jan. 7, but that hasn't prevented him from meeting with various community groups as he transitions into his new office. Unopposed in the November election, he's effectively been district attorney-elect since defeating three other Democratic candidates in a September primary.

Although his background is as a prosecutor — he joined the DA's office in 2010 — Gulluni also has had experience counseling at-risk youth. He said that's one reason why he plans to expand youth diversion programs, such as the Salvation Army's Bridging the Gap. Successfully completing such programs offers offenders an opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution.

Core issues

Gulluni said nearly 80 percent of the offenders who come through the court system are dealing with some type of substance abuse or mental health issue. He pledged to a do a better job in the coming years by focusing on those core issues.

"This is an important part of what we're going to do in combating issues that are particular to your school system, to the high school, and to the young people who are in this school," he said.



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

AHS juniors Anna Pellegrino and Troy Gallerani talk with Hampden County District Attorney-elect Anthony Gulluni following a recent meeting at AHS. Gulluni met with a diverse group of school and community representatives about his plans to help troubled youth.

Gulluni explained that many crimes are an outgrowth of substance abuse and mental health issues. "We have to do a better job of addressing those issues — and hopefully solving them — so the criminality and outgrowth doesn't continue."

School Superintendent William Sapelli said one of the problems plaguing school efforts to help students in trouble is getting parents to become involved in the situation. The incoming DA said parent intervention can often be "a difficult hurdle to surmount," but he explained there are programs in the DA's office that can help students.

"We have a great victim/witness advocacy program that is especially robust in the juvenile court. Our advocates are great at bringing in the right agencies and identifying problems when there is some willingness on the part of parents to engage," Gulluni said.

DA 'cares' about Agawam

Town Clerk Richard Theroux, who helped to arrange Gulluni's visit, told the group that Agawam is "very fortunate to have a new, young, aggressive DA who cares about your issues."

Most participants at the meeting — including Gulluni — noted that Agawam doesn't face the types of problems in Springfield and Holyoke schools. AHS Principal Steve Lemanski said the high school usually has no more than three students each year who are arrested.

Troy Gallerani and Anna Pellegrino, two AHS juniors who attended the meeting, said AHS has far fewer problems because of concerted efforts to include students — especially incoming freshmen — in programs and activities.

"It's gotten much better, especially this year," said Gallerani. He said when groups of upper classmen and freshmen are involved in sports and other extracurricular activities students feel included instead of excluded.

Pellegrino added that many freshmen start down the "wrong" path because they feel isolated in school. "Some upper classmen can influence freshmen with their bad behavior because the freshmen want to feel accepted."

'Christmas on the Green' set for Dec. 21

The public is invited to join the Agawam Clergy Association on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. at the Agawam Veterans Green for the annual Community Lighting of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Carol Sing-Along.

Community members are encouraged to bring family and friends for Christmas carols, hot chocolate and cookies.

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City Council meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Monday, Dec. 15
7 p.m.

A. Roll Call
B. Moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
C. Citizen's Speak Time
D. Minutes
1. Regular council meeting – Dec. 1, 2014
E. Declaration from Council President
F. Presentation of Petitions and Resolutions
1. TR-2014-47- Resolution to accept a restriction limiting "Alteration of Riverfront Area" (Conservation Commission M.G.L.A. 40§8C)
2. TR-2014-48- Resolution opposing mid-year cuts to Unrestricted General Government Aid and Chapter 70 Education Aid (Councilor Bitzas)
G. Report of Council Committees
H.Elections
1. TE-2014-4- Election of a member of the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals to a term expiring Jan. 1, 2018
2. TE-2014-5- Election of an alternate member of the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals to a term expiring Jan. 1, 2018
I. Public Hearings
J. Old Business
1. TO-2014-44- Transfer of $150 from Clerk Regular Temp (#11611-51020) to Clerk Longevity (#11611-51400) (Mayor)
2. TO-2014-45- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for Buccaneer Lounge, 84-86 Maple St., Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
3. TO-2014-46- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for Crestview Country Club, 281 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
4. TO-2014-47- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for Ray-Mor, Inc. d/b/a The Elbow, 386 Walnut St., Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
5. TO-2014-48- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for Home Plate Sports Bar, 827 Springfield St., Feeding Hills (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
6. TO-2014-49- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for Polish American Club of Agawam, 139 Southwick St., Feeding Hills (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
7. TO-2014-50- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for F.S.F., Inc. d/b/a Riverboat Bar & Grill, 11 South End Bridge Circle, Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
8. TO-2014-51- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for Scoreboard Bar & Restaurant, 15 King St., Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
9. TO-2014-52- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement permit for West Springfield Fish & Game, Inc., 329 Garden St., Feeding Hills (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
10. TO-2014-53- An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's license to ACE Auto Body, 1363 Main St., Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
11. TO-2014-54- An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's license to Paul J. LaPointe d/b/a The Car Connection, 820 Springfield St., Feeding Hills (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
12. TO-2014-55- An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's license to Elmwood – D&J Auto Sales, 521 River Road, Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
13. TO-2014-56- An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's license to LaFleur Auto Exchange, 374 Main St., Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
14. TO-2014-57- An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's license to RNK Auto Sales, 28 Moylan Lane, Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
15. TO-2014-58- An Order granting or renewing a Junk Dealer's permit for David S. Camp Collectables & Jewelry, 270 Main Street, Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
16. TO-2014-59- An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 dealer's license to Balfour Motors, 1801 Main St., Agawam (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
K. New Business: Unavailable at press time.
L. Any other matter that may legally come before the City Council
Adjournment

ARE YOU OLD NEWS?

Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to mballway@turley.com.



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Last week's photo: Correctly identifying Marellen Bruce were Geraldine Schilling-Nordal, Caroline Scherpa and Pam Savioli.

Early deadlines for Christmas, New Year editions

Because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Agawam Advertiser News asks readers and advertisers to be aware of early deadlines later this month.

Press releases, submitted photos and community news must be received by the end of the day Friday, Dec. 19, to be considered for inclusion in the Dec. 25 edition of the Advertiser News. News may be sent to Teri Mascia at aan@turley.com. Mascia can be reached at 413-786-7747, ext. 100. Editor Michael Ballway can be reached at 413-786-7747, ext. 102.

For businesses wishing to advertise in the Dec. 25 edition, the deadline to contact sales representative John Baskin is the end of the business day Thursday, Dec. 18. Baskin can be reached at jbaskin@turley.com or 413-786-7747, ext. 101.

For the Jan. 1, 2015, edition, the deadline for both advertising and news submissions is the end of the day Friday, Dec. 26.

'Stockings for Seniors' drive to benefit area residents

By adding one more stocking to their list to fill this holiday season, local citizens can provide needy seniors with joy and happiness. Stockings filled with goodies, gift cards and small necessities can be dropped off at the Atrium at Cardinal Drive senior living community located at 153 Cardinal Drive in Agawam anytime through Friday, Dec. 19, as part of its "Stockings for Seniors" drive.

The community's goal is to deliver 100 or more stockings to local Councils on Aging and Meals on Wheels programs, who in turn will deliver the stockings to needy seniors in our local communities. The Atrium will host a Holiday Mixer on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. to wrap up the drive. Last-minute donations will be accepted through Dec. 19. Recommended value is around $25.

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Opinion

Cut fat in state budget first

If the state Legislature does hold off Gov. Deval Patrick's plan for a mid-year cut in state aid to cities and towns, kudos to them. But their job isn't over.

Representatives and senators should hold the line on state aid, as they said they would in interviews with the Agawam Advertiser News earlier this month, and as requested by City Councilor George Bitzas in a resolution that the council plans to vote on next week. They should do it not just because of the havoc it would cause with local budgets, but also because local governments have cut enough already — and (this is where the Legislature's unfinished business comes in) state government hasn't.

Cities, towns and school districts have been cutting, cutting, cutting for the past 10 years, since before the economy collapsed. Budget growth is limited by Proposition 2 1/2 but so-called annual "fixed costs" — the price of heating fuel and electricity, building maintenance and health insurance, for example — often outpace the increase in local receipts. Union contracts almost always include annual wage increases, regardless of whether the town can afford it.

In most towns, where taxpayers have seen their own private-sector salaries reduced or held steady while their own household fixed costs increase, there's little appetite for a Proposition 2 1/2 override to hike property taxes. So towns have spent the past decade finding new ways to "trim the fat." They're running pretty lean now.

Can the same be said of Beacon Hill?

Has the state government done everything it possibly can to eliminate and consolidate unnecessary agencies, offices and employees? To investigate and curb abuse of the state's taxpayer-funded social services? To ensure efficiency and diligence in all capital procurement and construction projects? To justify every dollar of the 36 billion in its budget?

It makes sense. When there's waste and fraud at the local level, it happens on a small scale and it's more likely to be spotted — by an adversarial city councilor, a conscientious town auditor, the local press or an ordinary citizen who can gain first-hand experience with the problem.

When waste and fraud exist at the state and federal levels, however, they are larger in scope and harder to detect, buried in obscure bureaucracy and hidden within multi-million-dollar line items. The larger an enterprise is, the harder it is for an outsider or a reformer to prevent or even identify corruption.

Nonetheless, it's the Legislature's job — and the task of the new governor — to renew their focus on an exercise that towns across Massachusetts have been repeating, every spring, for at least a decade: cutting the fat wherever it can be found.



What the shepherds saw

FAITH MATTERS



EXECUTIVE PASTOR TIM REED BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV '84) — And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

It was not a glamorous job working third shift taking care of sheep. I would think it must have been an interesting character who could stay up all night watching over the little furry creatures to ensure they were not eaten by nocturnal predators. They were more than likely smelly, dirty and lacking in the social graces. This was an interesting group to make the announcement about the birth of the savior of the world too.

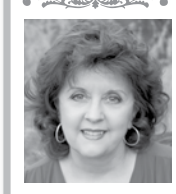
The shepherds saw an angel of the Lord, the brightness of God's glory washing over them and heard the golden tones of the angelic voices declaring the birth of the messiah! They rushed to Bethlehem and saw Joseph, Mary and Jesus, who was wrapped in the cloths, just like the angel said. Their eyes saw him.

What did he look like? God in the flesh had come to earth to live, die and rise again from the grave to save mankind from their sin. Did he have hair? Was he crying? Did they count his fingers and toes or touch his precious little nose? The text does not give those details, but we do have an eyewitness account verified by Luke that the shepherds were the first ones to see baby Jesus.

Reading the Christmas story rekindles my trust and hope in the Lord and builds up my faith. I never grow tired of hearing about the birth of Jesus because he is my savior, healer, deliverer and author of my faith, and faith in Jesus Christ as savior is what really matters on Christmas!

Christmas Ice Cream Cake

TABLE FOR TWO



ANN MACEY

Two of my favorite dessert recipes are the inspiration for this dessert — the frosting from my Candy Cane Cake and the idea from my Cookies and Ice Cream Cake. This recipe can be used in any size mold. I have used a star, a Christmas stocking, a wreath, and of course, a Christmas tree. If desired, individual desserts can be formed with a simple muffin pan. Since this recipe will yield five cups, my recommendation is to choose the cake form you wish to use and if there is any mixture leftover, use the muffin pan or any smaller holiday form. Be sure you have enough room in your freezer to hold whatever size dessert your mold will yield.

Since the ice cream sandwiches need to be kept frozen, be sure to cut the sandwiches into cubes quickly. Decorating this dessert is a fun activity for children. You can use green food coloring in the final layer of whipped topping or just keep it white. Decorate with peppermint candies, colored sugar, M & M's, or any other edible confection of your choice.

Christmas Ice Cream Cake

1 T. instant vanilla pudding mix
1 T. cold milk
2 T. finely crushed candy cane
1/4 tsp. peppermint extract
2-8 oz. tubs of whipped topping, thawed
10 frozen ice cream sandwiches

Line a five-cup Christmas mold with plastic wrap and set aside. In a large mixing bowl, combine pudding mix, milk, crushed candy cane, and extract with a wire whisk. Stir in 1½ cups of whipped topping and set aside. Cut each ice cream sandwich into 24 cubes and quickly add to whipped topping mixture and fold together. Pour mixture into prepared mold and cover with plastic wrap. Freeze for at least 45 minutes to set.

Remove from mold onto serving plate and discard plastic wrap. Frost with remaining whipped topping and decorate as desired. Freeze until ready to serve. Yield: 6-8 servings.

NOTES: You may store the dessert in the freezer before frosting then frost and decorate when ready to serve bearing in mind that the dessert will melt quickly. If storing in the freezer for extended period of time, wrap in heavy duty foil. This recipe will yield extra whipped topping.

*****

Ann Macey is the author of 'ANN'S TABLE FOR TWO: Quick & Easy Two Serving Recipes.' Ann welcomes your questions and comments. You may contact her at AnnsTable@gmail.com.

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Friends photography show slated for February

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library will host its fifth Open Juried Photography Show Feb. 2-27. There will be $1,340 in awards and four entry categories, including creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. The awards are made up of Best in Show $300, first place $120, second place $80, third place $60, in each category, and eight honorable mentions.

A category must have five or more submitted and accepted entries to qualify for awards. Friends of the Agawam Public Library reserves the right to eliminate a category, if there are not at least five entries submitted and accepted. Photo entry fee will be refunded.

All images must be captured with light sensitive material (either film or digital). Jury selections will be based on the review of the original images, not digital files. Entries must be wired for hanging with frame; no saw-tooth or clip hangers are allowed. The photo maximum size in the frame, edge-to-edge, is 16 inches by 20 inches.

The photography show is to benefit the Agawam Public Library and to help recognize and encourage photographers.

A $25 early-bird registration per entry is valid through Saturday, Jan. 17, which becomes $30 after Jan. 17. Multiple entries per category is allowed. Fee applies to each entry. All images must be original and made by the photographer.

The start of two-week drop-off of photos begins Saturday, Jan. 17, anytime during library hours.

The last day to enter and last day to drop off photo at library is Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Judging begins Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. and is closed to the public.

Photos not accepted in the show may be picked at the library on Monday, Feb. 2, and Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A reception and awards evening, free and open to the public, will be held Friday, Feb. 20, from 7 to 9 p.m.

At the end of the show the photos may be picked up Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If the photographer cannot come at that time, call 413-789-1550, ext. 8855, or email r.kadis@comcast.net to make other arrangements.

The selection and awards jurors are Barbara Krawczyk and John McGarry.

The photos juried into the show will be on display in the gallery area of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Feb. 2-27.

For more information, email Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net; or to receive a prospectus-entry form in the mail, call him at 413-789-4814.



Submitted photo

The award for Best in Show in the Friends of the Agawam Public Library Open Juried Photography Show held last February went to Joe Oliverio of Springfield for his photo, "Liftoff," entered in the nature category.

Area teens collecting food donations

The Agawam Public Library's Teen Advisory Council will be collecting nonperishable food items for the Parish Cupboard. Donations of small containers of condiments, such as ketchup and mustard, are appreciated and particularly any items to accompany a Thanksgiving or holiday meal, including boxed stuffing, canned cranberry sauce, gravy, instant potatoes, and vegetables.

Donations may be dropped off at the library anytime through Dec. 19.

Members of the Teen Advisory Council are in grades seven through 12 and plan and organize teen programs and activities at the library. New members are welcome.



Submitted photo

Family members attending a recent 80th birthday celebration for Reider Nordal (front row, second from left) were (back row, from left) Steven Nordal, Michael Nordal, Rolf Hofgaard and Peter Hofgarrd, his nephews, and (front row, from left), niece Leslie McDaniel, Reidar and his wife, Geraldine Schilling-Nordal and niece Karen Goodnight.

Reidar Nordal celebrates 80th birthday

Recently celebrating his 80th birthday was Reidar Nordal, who was surprised by his wife, nieces and nephews with a Mass for his future good health at St. John the Evangelist Church.

A party immediately followed with friends at the Monte Carlo Restaurant in West Springfield. Nordal was born in Alesund, Norway. The hospital was so full of newborns that he spent his first days in a cupboard drawer. He was brought up under the German occupation of the country.

His early education took place in his father's furniture store, which was converted into a school to prevent demolition. After his compulsory two-year Army service, he immigrated to the United States and became a citizen in 1972.

Nordal first settled in Seattle, Wash., moving to Agawam in the 1960s. His older sister lived next to his wife's parents and he remained when she and her family moved to Davenport, Iowa, when the local armory closed, a decision he has never regretted.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to participants in Quinn golf tourney

It is with much love and gratitude that I thank everyone who participated in the "Tommy Quinn Memorial Golf Tournament" held on July 6. The tournament was held to benefit Agawam HIgh School athletics. Because of your support, the tournament exceeded all expectations and was a wonderful tribute to my brother Tommy.

Thank you to Mono and his helpful staff at the Oak Ridge Golf Club, to all the golfers, sponsors and volunteers. My special thanks to the committee members for their dedication and hard work: Aldo Pallazzi, Dan Goyette, Joan Brodeur, Naomi De Christopher, Jackie Guiel, Shawn Sullivan, Mike O'Brien, Keith Nicoli and Phil Jenson. Without their help, the tournament would not have been such a success.

You will be forever in my heart!

Donna Quinn Pisano
Feeding Hills

Time for a change in cable provider

To the editor:

Attention, town of Agawam. I think the powers that be, whether it is the mayor or council, should see if we can get another cable company in town or stand up to Comcast to respect the consumer. Comcast has grown so big that it is leaving the consumer in the dust. I am not sure if anyone else has had any problems with Comcast, but maybe if we stand together, change can be made.

Maybe if we all can get together and call our senator, congress and attorney general, we can get change.

Ruth Cosimini
Agawam

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Public Safety

Fire Log

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 68 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Dec. 2 to Dec. 8.

On Dec. 2 at 8:31 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for public service.

On Dec. 3 at 5:34 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 4 at 8:48 a.m., the department responded to Garden Street for lockout.

On Dec. 4 at 11:26 a.m., the department responded to Southwick Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 4 at 7:51 p.m., the department responded to River Road for chimney flue fire, confined to chimney or flue.

On Dec. 4 at 8:50 p.m., the department responded to Raymond Circle to assist invalid.

On Dec. 5 at 2:26 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 5 at 3:30 p.m., the department responded to Paul Revere Drive for lockout.

On Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 East for grass fire.

On Dec. 5 at 7:43 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On Dec. 6 at 9:57 a.m., the department responded to North West Street for carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.

On Dec. 6 at 1:02 p.m., the department responded to Route 5 North off ramp for accident, potential accident, other.

On Dec. 7 at 1:54 a.m., the department responded to Corey Colonial for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for power line down.

On Dec. 7 at 4:02 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for public service.

On Dec. 8 at 10:10 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for good intent call, other.

On Dec. 8 at 10:39 a.m., the department responded to Albert Street for lockout.

On Dec. 8 at 12:26 p.m., the department responded to Windermere Drive for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

Police Log

The Agawam Police Department responded to 307 calls for service from Dec. 2 to Dec. 9. The department made 6 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Marvin Kitt, 55, of 1150 Riverdale St., Apt. 304, West Springfield, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

Thursday, Dec. 4

Joshua R. Kudelka, 24, of 11 Bush St., Westfield, was arrested on charges of operating a motor vehicle with license suspended and leaving the scene of personal injury.

Friday, Dec. 5

Kimberly Ann Barchus, 44, of 469 State St., Springfield, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Scott David Malnati, 48, of 313 Springfield St., Apt. 3, Agawam, was arrested on two default warrants.

Sunday, Dec. 7

David Anderson, 61, of 14 Joey Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.

Monday, Dec. 8

Scott D. Papillon, 45, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 39, Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

PLANNER, from page 1

"I have worked with so many wonderful people in the Town Hall," said Dachos. "I have worked with so many great administrations and so many wonderful people in the community, and I will miss the relationships I had with all of them."

Dachos has been involved with many projects, but the River Walk project along River Road and the Connecticut River shore is one of her proudest achievements.

"There was a lot of resistance at first to the project," said Dachos. "But after some work designing it, it ended up being a huge success and it is used quite a bit."

Dachos is also very happy to have been part of the Main Street beautification. It took several years and three different designs to finally come to fruition, and the project was completed last year.

"That project was so badly needed," said Dachos. "But if you drive up and down the road, it looks beautiful."

Like any retiring planner, Dachos has ongoing projects she will have to leave to her successor, as well as a couple of regrets.

One regret Dachos has is not completing a complete revamps of the zoning regulations.

"It was something that I had wanted to do," said Dachos. "The regulations need a complete modern overhaul. But other projects often got in the way."

Dachos was successful at updating some parts of the zoning regulations and added sections as needed.

Dachos says she will have to leave the development of the Walnut Street Extension, which recently received a zone change from the Agawam City Council, to her successor.

"That project is something that is hard to walk away from," said Dachos. "I hope that it is able to be transformed into something beautiful. I also hope the town can resolve the Games and Lanes property."

Dachos said her decision to retire had been planned for about six months when she reached a certain age. She is happy to be purchasing a family vacation cottage in Maine to spend time vacationing.

The process to name her replacement has not been made official and Dachos said she is in the process of reviewing her job description so the position can be posted.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER SEEKS MEETING
CORRESPONDENT

The Agawam Advertiser News, a Turley Publication, covering Agawam and Feeding Hills, is seeking a freelance correspondent to cover municipal and school district meetings on a regular basis. Applicants should be familiar with town government and have good writing skills. A degree in communications, English or journalism is not required, but encouraged. The applicant should be available on nights. Position is paid per story. Please send cover letter, resume and writing samples to Editor Tim Kane at 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or tkane@turley.com. *No phone calls or drop-ins please.*

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Seniors

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Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Dec. 15: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo, Mindful Meditation (free in the Garden Room); 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Dec. 16: SHINE Representative Available (by appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting Class, Sewing Class; 9:30 a.m., Christmas Candy-Making; 10 a.m., Coffee Hour w/State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Call Me Mrs. Miracle"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Dec 17: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 8:30 a.m., Meet the Mayor (Friends Coffee Shop); 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:15 p.m., Kids Chorus to Perform; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Chapter 2 meeting; 2 p.m., CPA Jack Welch Available (by appt.); 5 p.m., Zumba Gold, Tobacco Valley Artist Group meets.

Thursday, Dec. 18: 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Evening Pitch, Evening Line Dancers.

Friday, Dec. 19: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:30 a.m., Christmas Luncheon ($6); Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Lunch menu

Monday, Dec. 15: Sweet and sour chicken over rice, peas, bananas.

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Roast turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, fresh zucchini, pudding.

Wednesday, Dec. 17: Baked potato topped with beef chili and cheddar cheese, marinated romaine salad, mixed fruit.

Thursday, Dec. 18: Ham salad cold plate, tomato and cucumber salad, diced eggs, garlic stick, diced pears.

Friday, Dec. 19: Chicken napoli topped with prosciutto, mozzarella cheese and marsala sauce, baked potato, fresh yellow squash casserole, cheesecake with strawberries ($6).

Sandlin chosen as St. Pat's Parade Marshal

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee has announced that Rosemary Sandlin was selected as the 2015 Agawam Parade Marshal and will lead the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee's unit in the Holyoke Parade in March and the Agawam Memorial Day Parade.

Sandlin is a lifelong resident of this town and raised four children in Agawam, George, Leaane, John and Paul. She attended Agawam schools and the University of Massachusetts. Sandlin began her public service as a member of the Agawam School Committee, and was elected a member of that committee 11 times. She also served for 25 years as a member of the Agawam Housing Authority, she was the first woman in Agawam to be accepted into the Agawam Rotary Club, and was honored by the club as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Sandlin was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 2007 and served two terms. She is a member of the Agawam Garden Club, the Friends of the Agawam Library and the Armenian International Women's Association. She is also a member of the West Springfield Fish and Game Club, board member of the Orphan Foundation and the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee, a former volunteer of the Take and Eat program at St. John's Church and serves as vice chairperson of the Agawam Democratic State Committee.



Submitted photo

Rosemary Sandlin, center, the 2015 Agawam St. Patrick's Committee Parade Marshal, is flanked by committee members Kerri O'Connor, left, and Barbara Foley.

TREE, from page 1

'They really are changed'

The Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular is a pretty moving event in its own right, Adams said. People appreciate the change in pace during a busy season of shopping, cooking and decorating.

"It gets people away from the focus on shopping," Adams said. "It's the higher focus. … When they leave, they really are changed. We see people sitting here, crying."

This year's production, "The Nativity Symphony," was arranged and orchestrated by Bradley Knight. The dramatic portion, telling the story of the Nativity, is directed by Marilene Allen of the Red Door Theatre in Feeding Hills.

Bryars said the songs include a "lot of great Christmas hymns done in a very contemporary way." There's a 10-minute medley of traditional carols and a jazz-pop version of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" — "It'll knock your socks off."

There are also several new Christmas songs on the program.

To achieve the full symphonic sound, said Bryars, some members of the 22-piece symphony are professional musicians or former Bethany members who now attend other churches. The choir and dramatic troupe are made up entirely of members of the Bethany congregation, which totals about 1,500 people throughout the Pioneer Valley, from Greenfield down to Connecticut.

Despite the size of the congregation, Adams estimated that 40 percent of those who attend the Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular come from outside Bethany, including several groups from other Christian denominations. Adams said Bethany also mounts a massive production of the Easter story in the spring. He said he has a separate mailing list just to send out information about the Christmas and Easter performances — to 25,000 addresses.

"They come from all over," said Adams. "I don't know where you're going to go and get a full orchestra, a drama presentation and it doesn't cost you anything."

For more information about Bethany Assembly of God, at Main Street and Route 57, call 413-789-2930 or visit www.bethanyag.org. For more about LACC, visit www.lacc4kids.org.

Local comedy troupe improv at Agawam library

The Phantom Sheep Players, a comedy troupe based in western Massachusetts, will return to the Agawam Public Library with a free show of improv and sketch comedy, Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. "LaughCrafters" will feature improvised scenes created right on the spot based on audience suggestions along with a few pre-recorded sketches.

The Phantom Sheep Players repertoire includes Western Mass. natives Eric Boucher, Tommy Lynch, Jesse Redmond, Greg Seymour, Jeff Tingley and Kevin Zabawa, each with a wide variety of professional entertainment experience that includes improvisation, voice-overs, teaching, writing, directing, video production and puppetry. As a team, they write and perform all the material in "LaughCrafters," including playing the multiple characters.

Phantom Sheep members have worked together for over a decade. They are known for their successful series of comedy improv shows and workshops that are customized for audiences of all ages. This year, they began a partnership with the Springfield JCC, providing theater education, and performed again as part of West Hartford's Improvaganza.

They have also produced over 35 original shows, including two new ones in 2014 for the theme park industry. This holiday show is an annual tradition to celebrate the season with the local community and will feature parody and satire intended for a teen and adult audience.

For more information about the troupe and the show, visit www.phantomsheep.com and "like" them on Facebook, where you can RSVP for this event.

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Business



Submitted photo

Six Flags teams up with library

Mayor Richard Cohen, center, and John Winkler, president of Six Flags New England, help Agawam Public Library Director Judy Clini, far right, and Cynthia Sutter, Library Youth Services, celebrate the unveiling of a new reading area. Six Flags partnered with the library to transform a corner of the children's area with new kid-size furniture, a world-class mural and art supplies. Six Flags also donated 300 tickets this past summer to enhance the children's summer reading program at the library.

Wilson joins Park Square Realty



Submitted photo
Lynn Wilson

Ted Cassell, president of Park Square Realty, announced that Lynn Wilson has joined Park Square Realty's Westfield office as a sales associate. Wilson is an experienced Realtor and comes to Park Square Realty from Real Living Realty.

She served in the U.S. Navy for eight years as a dental technician and the last two years as a member of the Fleet Marine Force.

Wilson was awarded an associate of science degree in respiratory care and an associate of arts degree in general studies with honors, both from Springfield Technical Community College. She has worked as a respiratory therapist at Baystate Medical Center for 17 years.

Wilson is a resident of Westfield where she lives with her family and three dogs.

Park Square Realty is a locally owned residential real estate company with offices in Westfield and Feeding Hills.

Introducing the 'Voice of Business'

West of the River Chamber
Agawam • West Springfield

Editor's note: This is the first in a planned series of columns to appear in the Agawam Advertiser News from the West of the River Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses in Agawam and West Springfield.

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce is excited to become a monthly contributor to the Agawam Advertiser News. Having a strong chamber voice not only joins our business community but insures that Agawam and West Springfield remain communities that are great places to work and live. In this inaugural article, we will give you some background information as to our existence. Future articles will update you on our events, legislative issues and accomplishments, and spotlight our members. It is our hope that businesses and the community become more involved and continue to make the WRC a strong business voice.

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce, better known as the WRC, has been in existence since 2008. The Agawam and West Springfield chamber boards agreed to merge and create this new chamber. We are managed by the Chamber Management Services, LLC, whose owner is also the president and founder of the Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. Our partnership with the Mass Chamber enhances our membership with statewide representation.

As of today, we have 191 business members that range in size from sole proprietorships to some of the largest corporations in our community. The board of directors meets once a month and consists of 22 people from local businesses and industries. The current board of directors are John Weiss, Ormsby Insurance; Chuck Kelly, Flowers by Webster; Ken Vincunas, Development Associates; Lori Stickles, United Bank; Patricia Parker-Flores, Lower Pioneer Valley Education Collaborative; David Chase, Hampden Bank; Robert MacDonald, Work Opportunity Center; Jennifer McGrath, Six Flags; Frank Palange, V&F Auto; Kelly Pignatare, Westfield Bank; Virginia Pisano, Baystate OB/GYN; Matthew Roberts, Insurance Center of New England; Alan Rogers, United Research Bureau; Donna Safford Fleury, Crestview Country Club; Noreen Tassinari, Eastern States Exposition; Joyce Viecelli, McNally Brothers D.M.D; Bonnie Massoia, Canary Blomstrom Insurance; Remo Pizzichemi, Hampton Inn; Melissa Richter, Peoples Bank; Michele Brennan, Bridgeport Bindery; Brian Houle, Spherion; and Tanya Moriarty, Johnson, Sclafini & Moriarty. There are also multiple sub-committees that address topics such as economic development, legislative issues and education.

The WRC hosts many events throughout the year. Most of these events inform and educate the business community and public. We sponsor the legislative debates that are televised locally as well as programs that offer the ability to sit down and discuss topics with the mayors and local legislators. We also sponsor the Agawam Small Business Assistance Center, which holds informational seminars and assists the business community with mentoring.

Allowing our members the opportunity to network with other businesses is a vital component to the WRC. Wicked Wednesdays are held monthly at local businesses and are free of charge to members. Networking luncheons are held monthly as well. Our legislative breakfast brings together local legislators to discuss regional and state issues. Another annual breakfast in June is highlighted by a notable speaker.

In addition to these events, there are two major fundraising initiatives we hold each year. The annual golf tournament is held in August and FoodFest West in November. The proceeds from these popular events are used to fund our scholarship program, West Springfield Partnership for Education, business grants and enhance our programs.

There are additional member benefits which offer discounts for various products and services for members.

The WRC is a member driven organization, which relies on our members and the community to continue our success. Please contact us if you would like more information about becoming a member. We encourage our members and the community to let us know if you have ideas for certain topics and business news for upcoming articles. Please email bmassoia@canaryblomstrom.com with ideas.

Contact information is WRC, P.O. Box 48, West Springfield, MA 01090-0048. Our phone number is 413-426-3880 and website is westoftheriverchamber.com. You can also email us at info@westoftheriverchamber.com.

Bonnie Massoia is a member of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce board.

Legal Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD14A0047AD
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
In the matter of:
Rylie Madison McLane

To: **Joshua Layne** any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A Petition has been presented to said court by: **Anthony J Rose** of Agawam, MA **Erin M Rose** of Agawam, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Rylie Madison Rose**

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 02/13/2015

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 24, 2014
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/4,12/11,12/18/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD14P2399EA
Estate of:
Donald E. Meltzer Sr.
Also Known As: Donald E. Meltzer
Date of Death:
October 11, 2014
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Daniel Meltzer** of Springfield MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Daniel Meltzer of Springfield MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
12/11/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.HD14P2058GD
In the interests of
Kiara Mi'Amour Kozak
Of Feeding Hills, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 10/09/2014 by **Cynthia Kozak** of Feeding Hills, MA **Richard Kozak** of Feeding Hills, MA will be held 01/05/2015 01:15 PM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located 50 State Street, 4th Floor Springfield, MA 01103

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: November 17, 2014
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/11/14

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.
Call for your Appointment

1-888-798-8528

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HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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In the Classroom



Submitted photo

Agawam High School Rosie Robotics students recently attended a training session in order to officiate for the upcoming tournament.

Robotics tourney in town this Saturday

Agawam Robotics Education Association will host the seventh annual FIRST Lego League Agawam Qualifying Tournament / JrFLL Expo Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Agawam Junior High School. Weeks of hard work will culminate at this high-energy, sports-like tournament where teams will demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community. Among the participants are teams from the Agawam school district along with teams from other local areas in Massachusetts. This event is free and open to the public.

FIRST Lego League is an international program for children ages 9 to 16 (9 to 14 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico) in more than 80 countries, created in a partnership between FIRST and the Lego Group in 1998 to get children excited about science and technology. Each year in late summer, the FIRST Lego League releases a themed, three-part challenge based on a real-world scientific topic applied through a "robot game," a "project" and a signature set of FIRST Lego League "core values," which are the overarching way the challenge is completed.

Teams of up to 10 children participate in the challenge by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field (robot game) and developing a solution to a problem they have identified (project). Past challenges have been based on topics such as biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, climate, quality of life for senior populations and transportation.

This season, the "world class" challenge is asking the children from around the world to research a better or more innovative way to help someone learn. Teams will also build, test and program an autonomous robot using Lego Mindstorms NXT technology to solve a set of learning missions. The cornerstones of the experience are the FLL core values, which emphasize contributions of others, friendly competition, learning and community involvement.

The competition is judged in three categories — project, robot, and core values. Teams with highest overall performance will advance to the Massachusetts State Championship Tournament, which will take place at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Dec. 20. The highest honor will then go to one team from Massachusetts, with the opportunity to participate in the FIRST World Festival at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis in April.

See page 14 for local honor roll listings

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College Acceptances: Rosaria Robidoux, Curry College, College of Saint Rose; Allison Schwarz, University of New Hampshire; Ashley Webster, Keene State College; Philip Woods, Plymouth State University; Allison Schwarz, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Monique Groux, University of Maine at Presque Isle; Michael Costello, Temple University; Chloe Leclerc, Bay Path University.

Free SAT Practice Test: Princeton Review will host a free SAT practice test to AHS students on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students must pre-register at princtonreview.com or 1-800-2Review ext. 1065. Postcards have been mailed home to all 10th- and 11th-graders.

College Applications: They are past due. See your guidance counselor right away.

SAT Prep Course: Princeton Review will host an SAT Prep Course at AHS beginning Jan. 28. Students must pre-register and pay at princtonreview.com or 1-800-2Review ext. 1065. Postcards have been mailed home to all 10th- and 11th-graders.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Dec. 15: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Cheeseburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Dec. 17: Not "too" spicy chicken patty, steamed white rice, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Dec. 18: Ultra-grain stuffed-crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Dec. 19: Turkey grinder with cheese, Cape Cod chips, baby carrots, fresh fruit, Dole Fruit Push-Up.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, Dec. 15: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Cheeseburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Dec. 17: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Dec. 18: Ultra-grain stuffed-crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Dec. 19: Ham or turkey sub with cheese, Cape Cod chips, baby carrots, fresh fruit, Dole Fruit Pus-Up.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Dec. 15: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, whipped potatoes, green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Cheeseburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Dec. 17: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Dec. 18: Ultra-grain stuffed-crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Dec. 19: Ham or turkey sub with cheese, Cape Cod chips, baby carrots, fresh fruit, Dole Fruit Pus-Up.

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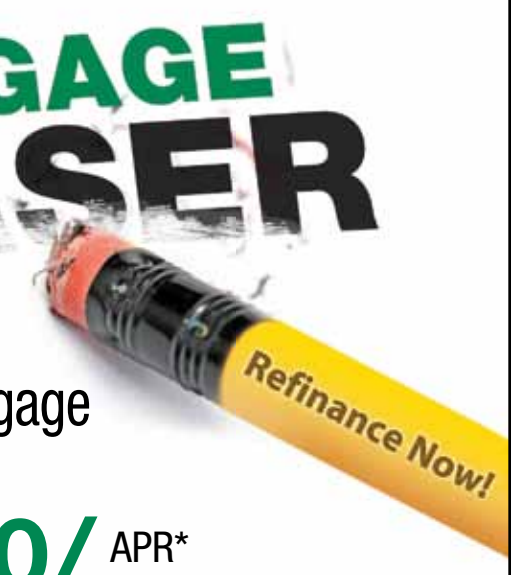
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SANTA, from page 1

Santa breakfast. Now raising her own family in her hometown, she's continuing the holiday tradition.

"I have fond childhood memories of coming here with my family," said Evans as she watched her two boys visiting with Santa. "I can't think of a better way to carry on that tradition than with my own kids."

Samantha Rudd, co-chair of the Dec. 7 event with Christina Beauchemin for the past three years, will chair the breakfast next year. She said it offers families "a great way to reconnect" during the busy holiday season. "The whole family comes together. It's so special to witness those memories being made."

"We're making this a tradition. We like coming here and connecting with so many of our friends," said Laura Lukas as her daughters, Ryan, 4, and Kiley, 6, gobbled down their "yummy" pancakes.

She also appreciated the fact that AJWC uses money from the breakfast to benefit the community, including organizing a school bus safety program and distributing holiday baskets for the needy.

Jennifer Gagnon, a new Agawam resident, enjoyed the breakfast with her two children. "This is a perfect event," she said.

Jillian Warner also said the event is perfect for her family as ticked off the reasons why they returned for a second year. "It's close to home, my kids have a great time, and it's not expensive," she said. "Plus, we don't have to go to the mall and fight the crowds to see Santa."

'Worth the price'

Agawam residents Helen and Michael Klimczak enjoyed the breakfast with their granddaughter, Jozafina Klimczak, 4. "It's a nice event — much nicer than I thought it would be. Definitely worth the price," said Helen Klimczak. "They did a wonderful job."

The price of $5 per adult and $3 per child included a pancake breakfast, a free child's book, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The AJWC also received more than 125 letters to Santa. AJWC members will pen personal responses and deliver those letters to each child by Christmas.

Photos of children with Santa and Mrs. Claus are another tradition, but there was a new twist this year. Families had the option to receive a digital image instead of a printed photo. "They can use the digital photo many different ways — from emailing it to friends and relatives to putting it on Christmas cards," said Beauchemin.



Dallas Polmatier, 10, visited with Santa and then enjoyed a pancake breakfast with her grandfather, James Polmatier.



Jaiden Evans, 4, and his brother Max, 3, were among the more than 300 children who came to see Santa at the annual Agawam Junior Women's Club breakfast.

The magic of Christmas didn't end with Santa and breakfast, either. Families also could take a "story walk" that featured excerpts from "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Words and illustrations from that popular Christmas poem, better known for its opening line "'Twas the night before Christmas ..." decorated hallway corridors.

When Donna Shibley joined AJWC in 1988, there was so much enthusiasm among club members about the breakfast that she couldn't wait to help on the big day. Twenty-six years later, she's still volunteering, this year greeting families as they arrived.

"I've seen parents bring their children and those children bring their children. We have a reputation for a quality event. It's become a holiday tradition for many families," said Shibley. She was among more than 40 volunteers — AJWC members, their friends and family, and AHS National Honor Society students – who arrived well before dawn to prepare for the breakfast.

Enthusiastic volunteers, excited children

Allison Schwartz, 17,an AHS senior who assisted in the kitchen, said she enjoyed her second year volunteering at the breakfast. "Seeing all the little kids with Santa is wonderful – but sometimes I can't tell what they're more excited about — seeing Santa or eating pancakes."

Five gallons of syrup was poured onto the more than 900 pancakes that AJWC served and more than 250 books were distributed by the Agawam Family & Community Program. But the joy they brought to the children and the memories that were made are unmeasurable and priceless.

Dallas Polmatier,10, had one word to describe Santa after her visit: "Magical." The Feeding Hills girl, who plans to leave Santa chocolate chip cookies on Christmas Eve in hopes of finding a Moxie Doll the next morning, was eating pancakes with her grandfather, James Polmatier.

Max Evans, 3, loves toy trains. When he and his brother Jaiden, 4, visited Santa, Max did most of the talking. "I asked Santa for a toy train set. He said there are toy trains at the North Pole, so I'm hoping he'll bring me one."

Nicholas Preston, 6, best expressed the feelings of most kids: "I love Santa."

"So many children had a great time — an amazing amount of holiday cheer was packed into that one room," said Beauchemin.



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Christina Beauchemin, chair of this year's Agawam Junior Women's Club annual breakfast with Santa (kneeling, center) gathered around the Christmas tree with Santa (John Patrick) and Mrs. Claus (Barbara O'Connor) and some AJWC volunteers. Standing, from left, are Linda Marino, Theresa Conklin, Anna Mineo, Donna Shibley, Sue Godfrey, Samantha Rudd, Aileen Semanie, Janine Iacolo, and Carol Rose.

AHS for the ARTS

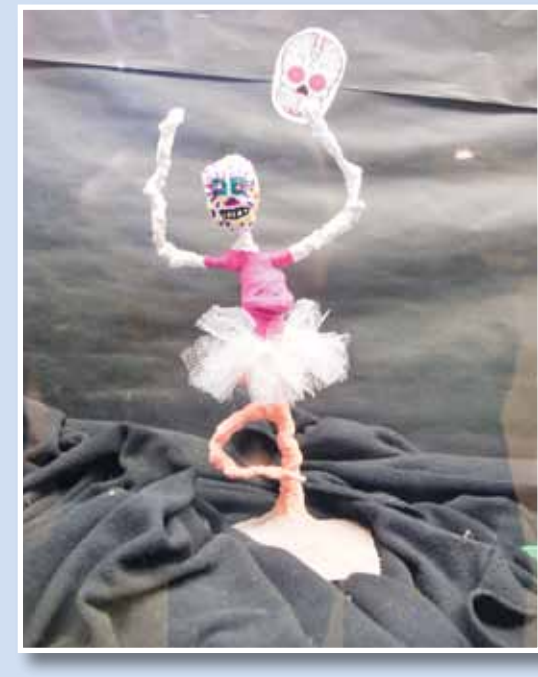
The annual Agawam High School Winter Arts Festival was held on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 2. Student artwork, including papier-mache sculptures, paintings, photographs, drawings, three-dimensional cardboard figures, and then some, filled the colorful halls.



A vibrant toucan seemingly bursts off of a page of collaged newspaper.



Two-year-old Hannah Podworski munches on a marshmallow snowman as she absorbs all the shapes and colors.



A display case features an abundance of unique Day of the Dead papier-mache skeletons.



Mia McGregor, 8, of Agawam rushes by a papier-mache killer whale.



A group of students socialize in front of a wall of photographs.



"Humans In Action" done with colored pencil.

Turley Publications photos by Kimberly Hatch



Attendees faced a warm greeting from a robot sketch.



Three-dimensional cardboard was painted under the inspiration of different pop artists.



Friends, family, students and teachers fill the halls for the event.

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SPORTS

Hockey team skating for finals rematch

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – During the Agawam High School hockey team's rise back to prominence, the Brownies have undergone a tough trial that has seen them build numbers and depth, overcome the "monkey-on-their-back" in South Hadley, and win a state Division IIIA title.

Last season, Agawam was promoted into Division III and played in the Division III-heavy Berry League, the toughest and most competitive league in Western Mass. hockey.

The Brownies had some hiccups, but found themselves with a league title and a chance to win a sectional title. But Westfield figured out the Brownies the third time around, and captured a 6-4 win in the finals.

Agawam is out for revenge this season, and will rebuild while using their depth to endure the process.

Coach Rich Feeley continues to have a very positive outlook on the season, saying the returns of Joe Mercadante and Chris Breault, who did not play last season, will help the Brownies, especially on the front line.

The team has several quality seniors, including defensemen Cory and Mike Pfau, Seamus Curran, and John Colwell.

Agawam's main rebuilding area comes in the goal. Chris Walles has graduated, leaving the Brownies with three goaltenders, Connor McAnanama, along with Zach Fiedler and Nick Askins.

Askins, a sophomore, did serve as a backup to Walles last season. He played in some games, but did not see significant time in the net. McAnanama also saw some time, though brief.

The roster features a lot of forwards, including seniors Zach Circosta, Elijah Bard, and Cam Rivest. Rivest and Circosta were both starters for Agawam last year.

The Brownies went 15-2-3

Please see HOCKEY, page 13

Brownie wrestlers ready to work

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School wrestling team hopes to continue their tradition of crowning champions and competing deep into the postseason.

The Brownies finished second as a team at the Western Massachusetts Division I meet last season and was sixth in the state after sending nine wrestlers to the state tournament.

Agawam is returning a top grappler in 138-pound Anthony Basile. Basile has been phenomenal since overcoming a torn anterior crucial ligament injury his sophomore year. Basile returned last year and made it all the way to the New England Tournament.

Basile competed in the tournament, but left with an injury.

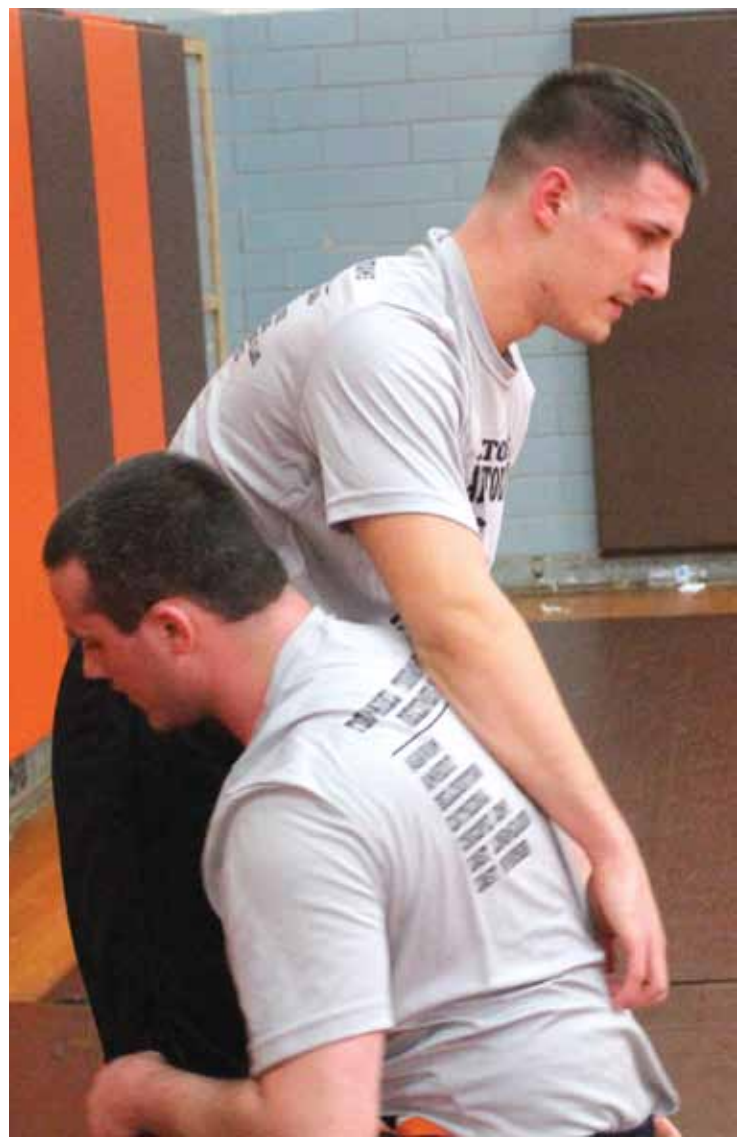
Coach Armando Ramos said he expects a lot from his wrestlers this season, and is looking forward to another successful year.

At the heavier weights, Ramos says Nick Blais and Nick Hope are figured to pick up a lot of wins this season.

"Nick Blais and Nick Hope are really focused this year and really want to leave their mark," said Ramos. "They have stepped up as leaders and are really working hard."

Also looking to rack up wins are seniors Matt Plumodor (126), Fred Karl-Morin (171), and James

See WRESTLING, page 13



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Nick Blais and Giovanni Lazio practice tackle takedowns during practice Monday.

Younger Brownies want to compete

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys basketball tournament is looking to return to the Western Massachusetts Division I Tournament for a third straight season, but will go through a bit of rebuilding to get to that place.

Agawam's biggest obstacle will be to replace the scoring power left by Tyler Desrosiers, who cleared the 1,500-point plateau and was a near-lock to score upwards of 30 points a game.

Coach Dave Federico said the preseason practices have been going very well, and he is optimistic about the team's chances to contend for a spot in the tournament this year.

"We lost eight players to graduation," said Federico. "And we are young as far as varsity experience goes with our players, but we have a lot of energized guys with a lot of potential."

Federico says everyone on the team will have the opportunity to show what they can do.

"We will be looking for production from everyone," said Federico.

Alex Sours, James Macey, Nick Antico, and Sean Monahan are the seniors on the team this season. Antico and Sours provided a few points for the team last year.

Cam Cabana is a junior. He saw significant time in the lineup last year for the Brownies. Max Molta, Joe Moccio, Sean Moore, and Nick Destefano are also juniors this year. Destefano did spend some minutes on the court last season off the bench.

Sophomore Meesha Odradka and freshmen John Wright and Myles Scott also made the team this season.

"We are going to be young and inexperienced this year," said Federico. "But I think these kids are going to be really competitive."

The Brownies went 12-8 during the regular season last year. The Brownies did struggle at times on defense, losing some high-scoring games early in the season against Sabis, Chicopee, and Sci-Tech.

Agawam would turn things around in the middle of the season, going on a five-game winning streak. They would also win three of their final four games of the regular season, before being sent on the road to West Springfield High School for the opening round of the tournament.

Agawam put up a great battle, but would lose to the Terriers 65-57. The Brownies actually held a four-point lead in the first quarter before the Terriers got going. Agawam was limited to six points in the third quarter, icing the playoff game for West Side.

See BROWNIES, page 13



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The Agawam High School girls basketball team practices Monday afternoon in the gymnasium. The Brownies start their season tomorrow night against Amherst Regional at home at 7 p.m.

Girls basketball focused on tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls basketball team is seeking to rebound from a difficult 4-16 season that left them out of the tournament in early 2014.

Coach Harold Cote has carved out much of his starting lineup after a great scrimmage last week against Pittsfield High School.

Cote says his team is going to be focused and work hard in order to return to the tournament.

"We are starting this year with a focus and a goal," said Cote. "We understand that hard work and effort are needed to win, and these girls are ready to play."

Cote expects Christie Mirski, Meghan D'Amours, Becca Uschmann, Samantha Stratton, Jess Lingenberg, Alli Wheeler, Samantha Charette, and Brittany Busco to see regular time in the lineup this season. Mirski, D'Amours, and Uschmann all return with the most varsity experience, and will make up a lot of the leadership on the Brownies this year. Mirski worked well on the outside of the arc, and Uschmann was key trying to make plays for the hoop up the middle.

Cote says he would love to see the Brownies come away with a win in their league.

Agawam plays in the difficult Valley Wheel League with East Longmeadow, Ludlow, Westfield, and Minnechaug showing up twice on Agawam's schedule.

The Brownies went 0-8 against their league opponents. They played tough against Minnechaug on two occasions, losing by two and three points, respectively, in those matchups. The Brownies also gave Ludlow and East Longmeadow some difficulty in losses.

"We would love to win our league," said Cote. "That is the desire of every team. But being with these kids every day, I see their commitment to succeed and that is the foundation that all coaches look for. I'm very excited about the coming year. Every player has the opportunity to contribute to our success."

Agawam's only wins last season came against Amherst Regional, Chicopee High, Palmer, and Amherst again late in the season. Agawam suffered through a 10-game losing streak stretching from Jan. 9 to Feb. 10 when they finally picked up a win against Amherst.

Cote says he believes the Brownies will

Please see BASKETBALL, page 13

Hall of Fame announces free admission for kids Dec. 21

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today in celebration of the 123rd birth date of the invention of basketball, they will be opening their doors to all children ages 18 and under for free admission into the Hall of Fame on Dec. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All local youth organization members are encouraged to attend.

"It is with great pleasure to announce this awesome opportunity for all children to attend the Hall of Fame at no cost," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "We would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. James Vinick, Treasurer of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, member of the Board of Governors, Senior Vice President of Moors & Cabot, Inc. and the Vinick Report for his continued support and their generous contribution."

Jim Vinick grew up in Springfield, Mass., nearby the original Hall of Fame on the campus of Springfield College. He created the Endowment fund for the Hall of Fame in the early 1980's, which served as the seed money for the Hall of Fame Facility as we know it today.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is a fantastic destination for everyone from lifelong basketball fans to families with children who are just beginning to explore the world's most popular sport. The museum houses more than three hundred inductees and more than 40,000 square feet of basketball history. There are several exhibits and interactive games throughout the Hall of Fame that are fun for children of all ages.

For more information on the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame visit HoopHall.com.

WRESTLING, from page 12

Karl-Morin (182, 195).

But with the graduation of some wrestlers, Ramos is also developing a number of new wrestlers in some spots in the lineup. 113-pound multi-time champion Brennen Liebel graduated along with several other lighter weight grapplers.

"This year we will depend on several young inexperienced guys," said Ramos. "We have openings in several weight classes especially in the lower weights. Our freshmen need to show they can score points and keep off their backs to save bonus points. If they can keep matches close especially against the top teams in the state then we can improve on last year's success."

Ramos says the preseason has been a little bit difficult. He says some of the grapplers have experienced some injuries. He is hoping depth will make up the difference, as well as quick recoveries.

"Hopefully we can heal quick," said Ramos. "Intensity is great and the numbers are up (about 30). We have a very competitive schedule all season so it's really important for us to get a good base in the preseason. So far we have had great practices and we are excited about the season. Our guys cannot wait to compete."

Agawam continues to sport a loaded schedule with several weekend tournaments giving the Brownies an opportunity to meet some of the top competition in the region.

Agawam will start at St. John's of Shrewsbury this weekend. They will face St. John's, Leominster, Quabbin, and Algonquin on Saturday.

They will have their first home meet on Dec. 17 against Putnam at 7 p.m. They will host their annual Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 30 beginning at 10 a.m. Agawam opens up their league schedule in January.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Anthony Basile grapples in practice with Hayden Mendrala.

BASKETBALL, from page 12

be a competitive team, and that competitiveness will be a strength. Varsity experience will be a weakness, with newcomers like Stratton and Charette hoping to find their spot in the lineup. Wheeler, Lingenberg, and Busco have all played varsity in the past, but with limited minutes on the court.

Agawam will get their season started against Amherst Regional at home tomorrow night at 7 p.m. They host Longmeadow on Tuesday evening at 7 p.m.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Year two of new playoff format set

By Dave Forbes
Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

REGION – With basketball season getting started this week, a reminder that the playoff format is vastly different for schools in Central and Western Massachusetts again this season.

Last year was the first season of a two-year experiment that brought several Central Massachusetts from the 508 and 978 area codes across the Quabbin Reservoir and into the 413 area code for the playoff season after playing most or all of their regular season games against teams from the Central Massachusetts region.

The schools that will be making the trip to Western Massachusetts again this season for postseason tournament play are: Leominster, North Middlesex, Quabbin, Quaboag, Shepherd Hill, Tantasqua, Murdock, North Brookfield and North Central Charter Essentials will all be coming over from Central Massachusetts to play in the Western Massachusetts Tournament.

The Quaboag boys and girls each won the championship in the newly-formed Division 4 for Western Massachusetts. The Shepherd Hill boys reached the Division 2 finals as did the North Middlesex girls in Division 2, while both Quabbin and North Middlesex were each ousted in the semifinals. The Leominster boys also reached the semifinals in Division 1. The Quabbin and Tantasqua girls each reached the semifinals in Division 2. Both North Brookfield squads and the Shepherd Hill girls were ousted in their first tournament games in their respective divisions.

A decision will be made by the MIAA basketball committee at the end of the year whether to continue with this format and consider expansion into other sports or if the basketball tournament will revert back to its previous format for the 2015-2016 season.

HOCKEY, from page 12

last season, with a 10-1-3 Berry League record. Their only league loss was against Longmeadow. Agawam defeated rival Westfield twice in the regular season. The Brownies beat East Longmeadow 3-1 in the tournament semifinals last season before dropping the finals to the Bombers.

The Brownies will be facing many of the same teams they did last season, including league opponents Westfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, West Springfield, Ludlow, Minnechaug, and South Hadley. South Hadley, though a rival, still competes in the Division IIIA Tournament at the end of the season.

Agawam will also face Auburn, Algonquin, Wayland, and Marblehead in independent games this season. Feeley tries to have Agawam face top competition in anticipation of the tournament.

The Brownies will have a crowded schedule to start the season before the Christmas holiday. They face West Springfield in their opening game tonight at 8:30 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center. They face Longmeadow Saturday at 2 p.m. and Minnechaug Tuesday at 8 p.m.

BROWNIES, from page 12

The Brownies have a very challenging schedule again this season, and will take on Chicopee Comprehensive in the Connecticut River Valley Classic tournament on Dec. 27. They will also meet South Hadley, Sabis, Belchertown, Minnechaug, and Longmeadow in league play this season.

The Brownies will open the season tomorrow night at the High School of Commerce at 7 p.m. They will host Westfield in their home opener Monday night at 7 p.m.

HALL HURDLING



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Alexis Ralph attempts to clear a hurdle in the hallway at Agawam High School during indoor track practice on Monday afternoon.

Litz Memorial Game set for Dec. 18

AGAWAM - The eighth Annual Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund Alumni Game will be held on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Agawam High School Gymnasium.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. The game will start at 6:30 p.m.

The current varsity/junior varsity teams will take on a group of alumni players from various graduation classes from Agawam High. Admission is free, donations to the scholarship fund will be accepted at the door.

The Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of fallen police officer and former Agawam High basketball player, Brian Litz, who was tragically killed in the line of duty. Each year the varsity team votes on the winners of the Scholarship Award(s).

They vote for the player they feel best exemplifies what Brian Litz stood for; being a great teammate, staying positive, and giving 100 percent effort at all times. Brian was a true hero and he is sorely missed by all.

If you cannot attend the game and would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund checks can be made out and sent to: Brian Litz Fund c/o Agawam Boys Booster Club, 40 Denise Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

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AHS Term 1 Honor Roll

Grade 9: Aviella Abramchuk, Anthony Adams, Camille Aloisi, Lenox Alves, Nicholas Archambault, Meagan Arslanian, Brianne Aubrey, Morgan Baker, Zakhariy Belozerov, Alexander Bishop, Nicholas Black, Jeremy Bogacz, Jessica Bonfiglio, Dominic Brignoli, Michael Brissette, Isabella Brothers, Lauren Callahan, Alexander Cappuccio, Michael Caracciolo, Joshua Carrier, Nicholas Casamento, Adriana Chaika, Markus Chobotaru, Sophi Chrisanthopoulos, Dylan Christy, Kelly Colwell, Erin Consedin, Dominique Counos, Caitlin Courtney, Alicia Crochetiere, Alyson Crochetiere, Caleigh Croteau, Carlos Cruz, Santino Curto, Isabel De Marco, Daniel Denisenko, Zachary Dion, Nicole Dobrowolski, Nicole Dougherty, Kiley Dugan, Paige Edwards, Felicia Elias, Jonathan Farrell, Amanda Faucher, Kristen Fellion, Katerina Fenney, Samantha Fett, Amber Fillion, Rachel Florence, Cody Flynn, Emma Fogarty, Emily Fountain, Evan Frappier, Jacob Frederick, Grace Frogameni, Michael Gamelli, Adam Gauthier, Brianna Gaynor, Sarah Gingras, Tylor Goodell, Jenna Gouvan, Brianna Goyette, Steven Grasso, Jenna Gravel, Emily Greeson, Thomas Grenier, Ethan Gulla, Gabriel Guyette-holben, Victoria Hart, Lindsay Hartmann, Callum Hastings, Jonathan Heelon, Joseph Hendrickson, Noah Hiersche, Dominic Savio Higiro, Abbie Hoban, Paige Hollander, MaryRose Hutchins, Domenic Ingham, Karli James, David Javadian, Joseph Johnston, Cassandra Jones, Adam Kerr, Kristina Kinchak, Kyler Kisielewski, Tatyana Kodreanu, Sarah Krafcik, Derek Lafreniere, Nicholas Lamari, Nicole Langevin, Cassidy Laudato, Kayla Laurie, William Le, Cameron Lebeau, Jarrod Lemke, Madison Lockwood, Sara Lubarsky, Jaden Luke, Veniamin Lukin, Nicole Luna, Kyle Ma, Andrew MacDonald, Colin Mahoney, Colin Mahoney, Nicholas Malerba, Alyssa Martin, Shaun Mateus, Agnessa Melnik, Nicole Mercadante, Elizabeth Milliken, Veronica Modirca, Amanda Moquin, Karissa Morin, Avenir Mozolevskiy, Alyssha Nadeau, Jacob Neal, Nickolas Negron, Carina Nesen, Caitlin Normoyle, Mathew O'Keefe, Joseph Oliver, Meagan Olson, Zachary Ouimette, Aidan Page, Deanna Pahl, Dario Papallo, Melissa Paquette, Sadie Parrotta, Anthony Passerini, Khush Patel, Nil Patel, Logan Pearson, Collin Pelchat, Domenic Pellegrino, Connor Pender, Mia Perella, Kyle Pilon, Justin Poirier, Katelyn Poirier, Julia Potter, Alexis Ralph, Michael Reardon, Grace Rinaldi, Quinn Robinson, Matthew Rowe, Sonia Rubeck, Alan Rybinski, Rodney Sanders Jr, Jessica Santaniello, Jacob Sawyer, Audrey Shuart, Nina Signorelli, Laura Snow, Quinne Stoddard, Jordan Streete, Brianna Taft, Angela Taliceo, Kaylee Tang, Eliza Timms, Sashaeliza Torres, Merve Turkmen, Michael Urban, Benjamin Vyce, David Wheat, Jacob White, Ryan White, Brandon Whitehead, Jake Wieners, Brea Wier, Zachary Williams, Mara Winer, Theodore Woods, Isabella Yacovone, Roman Yukhimets, Fatima Zahoor, Yuki Zheng

Grade 10: Serena Abraham , Lillian Afflitto, Laura Arbelaez, Nicholas Askins, Mariam Aydah, Dennis Beaver, Erin Berthiaume, Nathan Blain, Tyler Bode, Amberlie Brenes, Molly Breton, Olivia Brooks, Alina Bubuza, Elizabeth Burbank, Makayla Campelo, Sydney Carra, Jack Chamberland, Ethan Chan, Alexandra Cichetti, Francis Cipriani, Sydney Cofer, Anna Colfer, Julian Colon, Jordyn Comtois, MaryEllen Conway, Bianca Culhane, Abigail Cunningham, Colin Czerpak, Matthew Dagenais, Mary D'Angelo, Deanna Daniels, Xhy-Y Dao, Elisabeth Davydov, Francesco DeMaio, Mollie Dion, Samantha Downs, Madison Dube, Allyson Dubiel, Julia Eggleston, Courtney Fallon, Deric Farley, Zachary Fiedler, Patrick Fisk, Jessica Fontaine, Lizclariane Franqui, Karina Fronchkevich, Jenna Gamelli, Juste Gavelyte, Meghan Gendron, Alann Giberson-Acevedo, Christian Gonet, Bailey Gordon, Katelyn Grasso, Alyssa Gravel, Amber Gray, Collette Groux, Ryan Haines, Jacob Hampton, Miranda Harpin, Mia Hawkes, Aimee Heinze, Thomas Hendrickson, Stephanie Herring, Ian Higgins, Caroline Hitchcock, Zachary Hodges, Garrett Hollander, Katie Hryniewicz, Malvina Hrytskevich, Nathaniel Humphries, Lyubislav Ivanov, Lianna Johnson, Sierra Jones, Brian Keefe, Jonathan Kelley, Ji-Sun Kim, Colin Knowlton, Lyuba Kodreanu, Lydia Koury, Spencer Kozlak, Preston Kozub, Courtney Kraas, Sierra Kruser, Ashley Krzykowski, Carly Laskowski, Ashley Laviera, Bailey Laviolette, Erin Lavoie, Thomas Lazio, Kevin Lecuyer, Matthew Lemke, Matthew Lockwood, Darren Lussier, Hailey Lyne, Collin Marshall, Kevyn Martins, Jenna Matuza, Alexis McElligott, Ashleigh Merriam, Myia Misisco, Maria Moccio, Brian Modzelesky, Tytus Moen, Bradley Montanez, Veronica Moore, Christopher Morassi, Troy Near, Darlene Nguyen, Luis Nieves, Gianna Nigro, Jared Nigro, Shaun Noonan, Michaela Normand, Tanya Nosikova, Paul Oberheim, Melanie Ortiz, Timothy Paltz, Alessio Papallo, Foram Patel, Rachel Pellegrini, Karleigh Pfau, Anthony Piazza, Nicolas Pietroniro, Kyle Pinkham, Anastasiya Pirogova, Cody Plankey, Matthew Plasse, Austin Poreda, Maximilian Posnik, Madeleine Provost, Giovanna Recchia, Maria Riberdy, Ethan Rivera, Emma-lee Rivet, Dereck Rogers, Matthew Rolland, Mary Root, Samantha Rubacha, Kayla Rufo, Snizhana Salagornik, William Schwarz, Victor Shapovalov, Kyle Sheehan, Tatyana Shostak, Emma Silchuk, Timothy Sliech, Mohammed Soffan, Samantha Stratton, Shane Suchenicz, Kyle Szczepanek, Nicholas Tausendfreund, Kevin Thompson, Bianca Toto, Gabrielle Valente, Jessica Vaughn, Jeremy Venne, Katalina Wallace, Kathryne Watkins, Michael Werbiskis, Kyle Widmer, Sarah Yasgar, Roman Yusenko, Anastasiya Zabedyuk, Melissa Zhao

Grade 11: Victoria Abramchuk , Martie Faye Agravante, Paige Alves, Alexander Amato, Alec Ardolino, Emma Armfield, Cassandra Ayre, Allyson Balboni, John Baranov, Joseph Barber, Cameron Barrington, Tyler Barrington, Jenna Beach, Maggie Belanger, Samantha Bennett, Jenna Bonasoni, Kyle Bosse, Kristin Brouillette, Antonio Bruno, Taylor Budreau, Alan Burlachenko, Laura Cafaro, Kayla Casamento, Victoria Castro, Samantha Charette, Marino Cipriani, Geoffrey Circosta, Megan Cizek, Matthew Clarke, Matthew Conway, Kellie Cormier, Bryan Cote, Jason Counos, Nicole Covill, Kayla Crean, Meghan D'Amours, Lauren Davis, Joseph Davitt, Kayla DeBarros, Maggie DeForge, Yarrel Del Valle Gomez, Karina Demchuk, Angelina Derose, Michael DeStefano, Mikayla Diedrick, Kira DiLuzio, Richard Dolan, Christophori Dowd, Morgan Durocher, Nicholas Fenney, Alec Ferrendino, Ava Ferrendino, Ryan Feyre, Cameron Fowler, Alfredo Franqui, Jordan Frazee, Danielle Gagnon, Troy Gallerani, Abigail Garner, Brendan Garvey, Daniel Garvey, Daphne Gauthier, Angela Gnall, Brenna Gompper, Vicente Gonzalez, Katelynn Gordner, Dominic Grassetti, Grace Greene, Amanda Guerette, Alexander Gut, Veronica Hardy, Thomas Howard, Lilia Iovenco, Alexa Janicki, Robert Johnston, Austin Jones, Madeline Joyal, Rachel Jurkowski, Sean Kamenelis, Benjamin King, Taylor Kozel, Hannah Kresock, Alexis Kupiec, Tyler LaCamera, Elizabeth LaCroix, Rebecca LaCroix, Justin Laflamme, Conner Lajoie, Brian LaMotte, Rachel Lapponese, Ethan Laudato, Gabrielle Lescarbeau, Sarah Levkulich, Morgan Lindell, Jessica Lingenberg, Steven Ludtke, Todd Maniscalchi, Savannah Marcotte, Katie Martin, Jaime Martinez, Frank Mastromatteo, Tylor McCann, Diane McGregor, Benjamin McKiernan, Margaret Mendoza, Cassidy Milliken, Karly Milne, Christie Mirski, Joseph Moccio, Roman Mokan, Max Molta, Bryanna Montalvo, Julianne Moriarty, Nathan Morrie, John Morris, Lillian Mosiychuk, Julia Nadolny, Tara Negrucci, Vita Nesen, Maureen O'Connor, Sydney O'Keefe, Amanda Ottomaniello, John Passerini, Riley Pearson, Gianna Perella, Alexander Peterson, Samantha Philips, Duncan Phillips, Helen Phu, Tyler Pirnie, Alexis Price, Tymothy Regnier, Melina Reid, Alison Renaud, Paul Rivera, Kelly Roberts, Peter Rochford, David Rodriguez, Jennifer Rossi, Keith Ruby, Jacqueline Rybinski, Austin Sabadosa, Ashley Santiago, Ozan Sarpkaya, Carina Savoie, Zachary Sawyer, Jillian Scherpa, Melissa Schuler, Anthony Sciartelli, Charles Sclafani, Nicholas Scuderi, Austin Seng, Julia Serra, Kyra Slocum, Kelly Soto, Nico Stellato, Keandria Sussman, Victoria Sutherland, Samantha Swistak, Victoria Thomas, Anastacia Torres, Anthony Ugolini, Allison Wheeler, Emily Whitman, Tyler Wojcik, Laura Wynne, Vladimir Zabedyuk, Nick Zaporozhchenko

Grade 12: Nicolas Abodeeb, Jamie Allivato, Alyssa Askins, Weston Asselin, Victoria Baranov, Elijah Bard, Christopher Basile, Olivia Beauvais, Alexandra Beavis, Anastasiya Botnaru, Brittany Busco, Dominic Calcasola, Shayne Castonguay, Richard Cears, Nicole Christian, Zachary Circosta, Andrew Colson, William Conklin, Hannah Cooper, Brandon Cruz, Cameron Czerpak, Mia Davidson, Patrick Deane, Amanda Delore, Daniel Dobek, Jacqueline Donahue, Skylar Downs, Dalton Drummond, Sabrinna Dubiel, Megan Dustin, Liya Dzyubenko, Alyssa Eggleston, Sumeyye Elevli, Kali Evangelista, Carly Evelyn, Marisa Ewing, Rachel Fancy, Kaitlyn Fanning, Emily Feid, Robert Fontaine, Ashley Gage, David Gage, Hannah Gingras, Katalina Gomez, Sarah Graves, Teresa Graziano, Nicholas Hanchett, Lauren Hartmann, Tyler Heer, Samantha Henry, Alexis Horniak, Paul Hotaling, Heather Howe, Diana Huynh, Emily Jefferson, Oleg Kaletin, Taylor Kareta, Frederick Karl-Morin, Brenden Knowlton, Haley Kozlak, Carly LaBelle, Casandra Land, Katrina Laz, Christopher LaZazzera, Jeffrey Leclerc, Kristina Lemire, Braden Lucia, Brenden Mahoney, Viktoriya Maklakova, Khouloud Mandour, Stephen Mateus, Kyla McGurn, Angelina Melloni, Joseph Mercadante, Marissa Miller, Irina Mita, Makenna Moen, Melissa Montagna, Kayla Moquin, Ann Mozzer, Emily Murphy, Jesse Near, Jaclyn Neilsen, Gianna Nettis, Erblina Nuhiu, Kristen Odell, Vincent Panuccio, Aliaksandra Papova, Rebecca Paquette, Roshni Patel, Anna Pellegrino, Emily Percy, Cory Pfau, Michael Pfau, Megan Phu, Jessica Pioggia, Michael Potter, Jordan Reed, Michael Reed, Luke Rheault, James Ridenour, Lauren Rinaldi, Cameron Rivest, Daniel Robie, Veronica Rovatti, Veronica Rubeck, Giovanni Russo, Benjamin Schiff, Allison Schwarz, Vincenso Scuderi, Joseph Silva, Amanda Smith, Nicole Spafford, Jennifer Stempel, Andrew Strong, Jae Suk, Mario Tedeschi, Brian Thomas, Joseph Thresher, Ashley Tibbetts, Ellen Vyce, Ashley Webster, Patrick White, Eric Wolowicz, Philip Woods, Christopher Wyckoff, Zachary Wysocki

Agawam Junior High Term 1 Honor Roll

Grade 7: Genesis Aguilar, Shkurte Ahmeti, Arianna Albano, Sydney Anderson, Imani Barbour, Emily Bazanchuk, Madison Beaulieu, Conor Begley, Brianna Benjamin, Cameron Benoit, Michael Berthiaume, Maxwell Blanton, Emily Bonfiglio, Gianna Boyle, Mackenzie Boyle, Allison Breton, Jason Breton, Sofia Bubuza, Nicholas Buonagurio, Jordan Campelo, Thomas Caracciolo, Vincent Castro, Jamie-Lyn Cavallon, Aidan Chan, Ruby Chenevert, Cassidy Clarke, Kiera Cooley, Russell Cooper, Emily Cote, Riley Coughlin, Olivia Courchesne, Breanna Couture, Megan Crawford, Emma Davilli, Madelyn Dickinson, Sydney Dietrich, Isabella Dimino, Mackenzie Douglas, Jack Dunn, Megan Dunphy, Katherine Dustin, Madison Elias, Hailey Emmons, Erin Ewing, Emily Fallon, Riley Fanning, Maxwell Felix, Connor Feyre, Jaliyah Figueroa, Johnathon Filamonte, Tessa Fitzgerald, Matthew Flagg, Emily Fontaine, McKenzie Forfa, Jack Frogameni, Olivia Frogameni, Emma Gale, Peter Gamelli, Patrick Gauthier, Sierra Gauthier, Daniel Gavrilov, Nadia Ghareeb, Zao Gill, Emily Gillis, Katelynne Giroux, Matthew Gorman, Savannah Goudreau, Edward Grigorchuk, Jaylee Hiersche, Matthew Hotaling, Andrea Hunt, Kaylish Ingham, Mariel Izoita, Ally Jabry, Dong Kang, Mia Kelley, Nastasia Kirik, Cole Klafeta, Dorina Kodreanu, Alexander Korniyenko, Anthony Krzykowski, Kristen Langevin, Eduard Lapsov, Nickolas Lavrenchuk, Payton Lemke, Julia Lescarbeau, Josiah Lis, Matthew Long, Joseph Longo, Veronika Lukin, Evan Lyne, McKenzie Lyne, Godfrey Macadangdang, Ryan MacDonald, Abbey Majka, John Manale, Merna Mandour, Madison Manser, Jessica Marino, Jeremy Martinez-Maldonado, Tate Mason, Nathan Mateus, Kirsten McDonnell, Carina Menovshchikova, Zachary Moccio, Connor Montagna, Garrett Musa, Sarafina Nardi, Shawn Newsome, Andy Nguyen, Emelie Oberheim, Alexandra Oldenburg, Jailene Ortiz, Suzanne Page, Prem Patel, Emma-Lee Pickett, Samuel Polley, Ian Poulin, Geta Preniqi, Elshama Privedenyuk, Zachary Quick, Ashley Reagan, Cassie Reed, Summer Reigles, Madison Rinker, Olivia Rising, Brody Robbins, Abigail Rodriguez, Jonathan Rolon, Lucas Rosati, Shania Rossi, Anna Russo, Antonio Russo, Joseph Russo, Diana Rybnikov, Dzmitry Ryhal, Michael Santore, Gavin Scannapieco, Angelina Shayda, Jordan Shea, Dylan Sliech, Emily Smidt, Mikayla Sole, Brady Spaulding, Arianna St Peter, Esther Stepchuk, Jeian Stewart, Gabrielle Suffriti, Brooke Szafran, Amanda Szczepanek, Robert Taylor, Emma Thomson, Nicholas Thomson, Ethan Timms, Humberto Torres, James Typrowicz, Ryan Wargo, Mason Wesley, Danielle Widmer, Zack Wieners, Amanda Woodford, Gianna Yacovone, Eric Zheng.

Grade 8: Kalea Alvarez, Abdullah Aydah, Mariangelie Beaudry, Jason Beaver, Alexander Bisson, Sydney Biza, Diana Bortolussi, Juliet Burbank, Jade Canney, Madison Carra, Nicholas Charest, Madison Cofer, Lilivette Colon, Eyan Corridan, Yasuo Council, Amy Crawford, Cameron Croteau, Anan Daniels, Derek Davis, Tommaso DeCaro, Taylor DeGeorge, Mia DePalma, Olivia DePergola, Rachel Dialessi, Michael DiLullo, Daniel Donahue, Joseph Dowd, Patrick Drake, Jared Durocher, Erin Dustin, Rawan Ebrahim Sarah Ehresman, Alexina Ferrentino, Parker Florian, Mariah Giberson-Acevedo, Kasey Gobeille, Zackary Godbout, Alia Godek, Timothy Goudreau, Jenna Grasso, Meghan Haines, Kyle Henry, Kayla Herlihy, Madisyn Homer, Alexandra Humphries, Grayson Illouz, Alina Iovenco, Veniamin Iovenco, Peter Jang, Jolene Jendrysik, Ernesto Jimenez, Hunter Jones, Miranda Kamukala, Samantha Kelley, Tyler Kelley, Amanda Kiley, Matthew King, Geoffrey Klafeta, Oleksandra Kobylianska, Ariana Korcz, Sergiy Kovtun, Adam Krafcik, Diana Kulmizev, Autumn La Branche, Caroline LaBonte, Trysten Lajoie, Samantha Landry, Jakob Lanski, Madelyn Lapierre, Dante Lee, Allison Leonard, Matthew Liimatainen, Justin Lingenberg, Jorge Maisonet Perez, Marissa Mansfield, Kaily Mayo, Haily Mereschuk, Morgan Miller, Vanni Morello, Jacob Mullins, Camryn Nicora, Emily Oliver, Michael Olson, Caroline Ortiz, Honesty Osbourne, Cassidy Patterson, Gwendolyn Payne, Sophia Pearson, Joseph Pellegrino, Jasmine Pszczola, Lilah Randolph, Mariana Reid, Aaron Renaud, Noah Rivera, Katelyn Roberts, Felicity Rovatti, Sean Ryan, Justin Salva, Robert Schlosser, Lexie Sexton, Kayla Shields, Samuel Silchuk, Isabella Silva, Brandon Smith, Casey Smith, Sara Sonsini, Hayley Sotolotto, Shelby Stathis, Michael Stepanik, Sophia Strain, Andrew Sullivan, Justin Swistak, Avery Szulc, Matthew Talevi, Alexandria Taylor, Lena Tedeschi, Alyse Theroux, Amanda Thomas, Joseph Thornton, Noah Trude, Ashley Ugolini, John Wheat, Sydney Winters, Dominic Zampiceni, Gloria Zgherea.



Obituaries & Church News

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Godet, Natalie I.
Died Nov. 26, 2014
Funeral Dec. 4, 2014
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Hill, Richard H.
Died Nov. 29, 2014
Funeral Dec. 5, 2014
Agawam Funeral Home

Lafond, Shane P.
Died Nov. 29, 2014
Funeral Dec. 5, 2014
Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home
Holyoke

Woods, Michael G.
Died Dec. 6, 2014
Funeral Dec. 11, 2014
Cierpial Memorial Funeral Home
Chicopee Falls

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
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Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

'Live Nativity' at Church of the Redemption

The Church of the Redemption, 50 Maple St., Agawam, will present a Live Nativity Saturday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. The public is welcome to join for Christmas carols and refreshments. Animals are courtesy of the Forest Park Zoo.

Hanukkah party is Dec. 21

WESTFIELD — Congregation Ahavas Achim will host a Hanukkah party Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church, 487 Western Ave., Westfield, adjacent to Westfield State University.

There will be latkes, songs, storytelling and a potluck dairy dinner. Rabbi Joyce Galaski will lead the prayers and songs.

Attendees should bring their friends and family, along with a menorah and candles for a community lighting of the holiday candles. Also, bring a nonperishable item to be donated to the Westfield Open Pantry.

The cost is $5 for individuals and $10 for families. To register, call Shelley at 413-569-1402 or email whelley2@comcast.net.



Submitted photo

Grace Lutheran Church project coordinator Carol Goulet, left, and Sunday School students Jimmy Krupienski, Chris Cameron, Meghan Shea and Sarah Kent man the collection table for the "Undies Project."

'Undies Project' benefits Rescue Mission

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Grace Lutheran Church wrapped up its three-week "Undies Project" on Sunday, Dec 7. The project focused on collecting underwear and socks for the Springfield Rescue Mission.

The final count was 204 pairs of underwear totaling $404 and 68 pairs of socks totaling $136, making $540. Adding to what was donated by the congregation, the church received a gift of $250 to purchase additional items from Thrivent Financial, a retirement investment company that many church members belong to. Thrivent provides funding through a program called Thrivent Action Teams. Action teams plan, organize and execute projects that stimulate community involvement and promote giving among its members.





Submitted photo

'Kids who love a quiz' invited to Bethany

At Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam, there is a group of enthusiastic children between first and fifth grades who love to come to church on Sunday evenings to quiz. The program is called Junior Bible Quiz and it is open to the community. Quizzers study questions and answers from the Bible and memorize short scripture passages. They compete using a buzzer system to prepare for meets against other churches that have the same program.

"I like it because it's learning the word of God," said Lailah Thee, age 6.

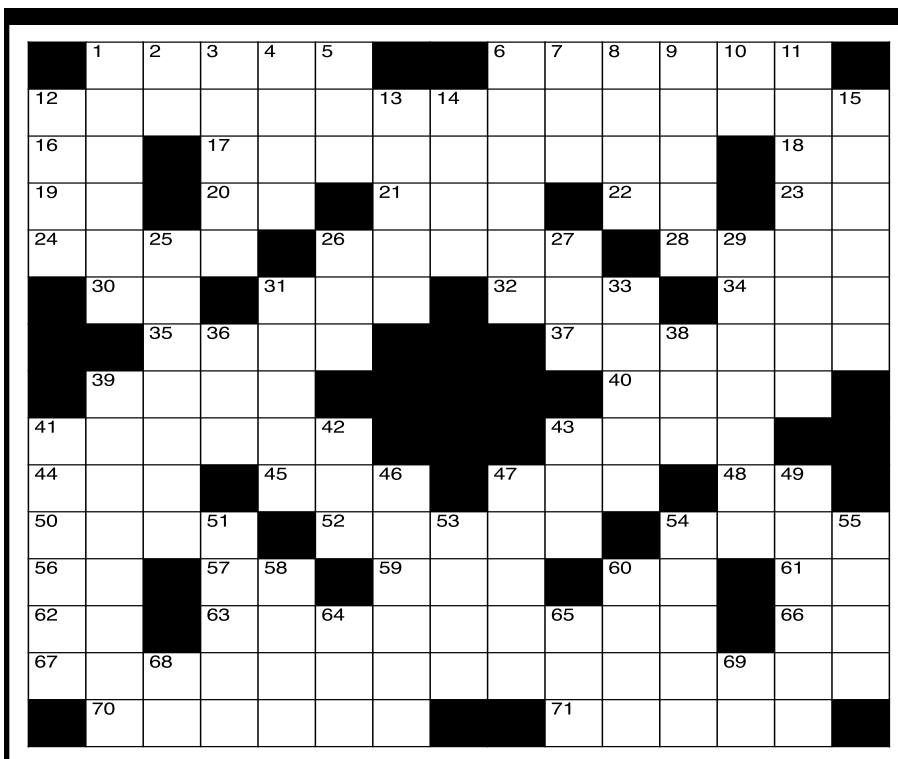
"Even when you lose in a meet, you're still a winner in your heart," commented Kathy Li, age 11. "It's stuck in your brain and when you grow up, you have the words in your head."

The public is invited to come to Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St, Agawam on Sunday evenings at 5:45 p.m. to see kids having fun learning what the Bible has to say.

"It's so exciting when new kids come to join JBQ and learn more about God but still have fun," according to Leah Wagneri, age 12.

There is no charge for attending or for study materials. For more information, call Children's Pastor Chuck Heimann at 413-789-2930.

"Kids get to stretch their brains and fill them up with God's Word," said the pastor. "What a blessing that is and what power they have in their lives. Don't miss out on a fabulous and exciting journey with your kids."



CLUES ACROSS
1. Hindu stratification
6. Least harm
12. Medical confinement
16. Silver
17. In a sick state
18. Belonging to me
19. 1/2 an em
20. "Makeover's" Pennington
21. Take a seat
22. 1/10 meter (abbr.)
23. Atomic # 13
24. Fallow deer genus
26. Skin lesions
28. Charlie Parker's sax
30. 31st state
31. Disparity
32. Poking stroke
34. Long time
35. Wm. the Conqueror grave
37. Hosts film festival
39. Mend
40. Gear teeth
41. Of cadmium
43. 1618 Reformed synod
44. Fringe-toed lizard
45. Where passengers ride
47. 1/60 hour (abbr.)
48. Initials of TV cartoon father
50. Pack down
52. ___ and feathered
54. Hyperbolic cosecant
56. Operating system (abbr.)
57. Atomic #99
59. Crown owned Isle
60. Santa __ trail
61. Booze support group
62. Footcandle
63. Retaliations
66. Natural logarithm
67. Quality of usefulness
70. Sitting position
71. They turn litmus paper red

CLUES DOWN
1. Brandy region of France
2. Equally
3. Spittles
4. Very small
5. Ethiopia
6. Filled with sediment
7. An antiviral AIDS drug
8. Saudi king to 2005
9. Early word forms
10. Yes in Spanish
11. Ketchup veggies
12. Used to have (Scottish)
13. Old Greek storyteller
14. Den
15. Stockings
25. Scottish road surface
26. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
27. Bodily cavity
29. Durations
31. About gene
33. "Footloose" actor Kevin
36. Supply weaponry
38. Neither
39. Capital of Syria
41. Shortcut
42. Feline
43. Have already done
46. Rifle barrel cleaning tool
47. High IQ group
49. Libra constellation
51. Perch genus
53. Summer precipitation
54. Ancient Roman boxing gloves
55. Silver Skates' Brinker
58. Cobblestone
60. Policeman (French)
64. Pizza, apple or chiffon
65. Winglike structure
68. 37th state
69. Potato state

Answers on page 7

Buzzin' from Town to Town

Classifieds

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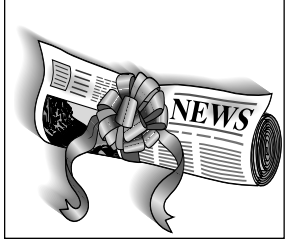
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Wanted

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, saws, levels, etc. Call Ken **413-433-2195.** Keep your vintage tools working and get MONEY.

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NEW ENGLAND ESTATE PICKERS "in the Old Monson Bowling Alley" **We are buying** all types of Antiques and Collectibles!! Simply **Bring your items in** for a Free Evaluation and/ or Cash Offer!! We will come to you. **Contents of attic, basements, entire estates!!** Clean sweep service. All **Gold and Silver** Items to include; jewelry, costume and estate pcs., wrist/pocket watches, class ring, etc., broken or not. **Silverware sets,** trays, trophies, etc., Coins of all sorts, Proof sets, Silver dollars and other coinage collections! All types of **Old Advertising Signs, Military items** to include Daggers, Swords, Bayonets, guns, medals, uniforms, helmets etc. **Old toys**, train sets, dolls, metal trucks, old games, model car kits from the '60s, **old bicycles, motorcycles**, pedal cars, Matchbox, action figures, Pre-1970's Baseball cards, comic books, etc.! Old picture frames, prints and **oil paintings**, old fishing equipment, lures, **tackle boxes**! Post Card albums, **old coke machines**, pinball, juke boxes, slot machines, **musical instruments,** guitars of all types, banjos, horns, accordions, etc. **Old cameras,** microscopes, telescopes, etc. **Just like on T.V. We buy all things seen on "Pickers" and the "Pawn Shop" shows!!** Call or **Bring your items in** to our 4,500 square foot store!! 64 Main Street., Monson **("The Old Bowling Alley") We are your Estate Specialists!!** Over 30 yrs. in the Antique Business! Prompt Courteous Service! Open Daily 10:00- 5:00 Sun. 12:00- 5:00 **(413)267-3729.**

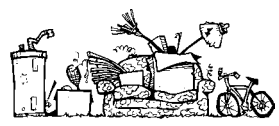
Christmas Trees

BLUE AND GREEN Spruce. Pre-cut or you cut. All sizes to 15' $10 to $50. South Belchertown **(413)283-4029** Daily 10-4.

CUT-YOUR-OWN AND FRESH-CUT trees, firs, pines, 4-10'. Pages' Tree Farm (Green Diamond Systems), 125 Blue Meadow Road, Belchertown (off Ware Rd., RT. 9, opposite DPW). Sat. 8:30-4:30, Sun. 12 noon-4:30. Free coffee, hot chocolate, prizes for kids. Sat., Dec 13 visit with Santa's Chief Elf from 9am to 1pm. Bring your own camera. **(413)323-4401 or (413)218-2932.**

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*****



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Services



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A & M TUNE-UPS
Push lawnmowers, riding mowers and small engine repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

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FREE PICK-UP ANY metal household items, appliances, pools, mowers, auto parts, yard furniture, grills, fencing, boilers. Call **(860)970-4787.**

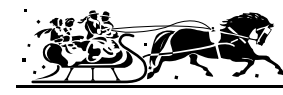
HOME HAIRCUTS BY licensed Barber. I come to you. Look good for the holidays. Call Sally **(413)949-1154.**

HOME THEATER, AV Tech. (Cert. ISF/HAA). The only Cert. Installers in this area. Put in theater for you or install a Plasma the right way. Sales, service. **413-374-8000**, **413-374-8300**. www.a-v-tech.com

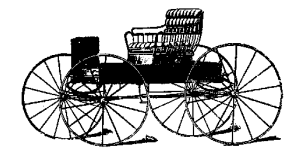
PAINT AND PAPER Over 25 years experience. References. Lic #086220. Please call Kevin **978-355-6864.**

SUFFOLK TILE CO. Custom designed bath & kitchen. Ceramic, marble & vinyl installation. Free estimates. Call **(508)815-9048**

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Demers & Sons
Belchertown, MA

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***NEW STATE LAW**. Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.

Computer Services

COMPUTERS SHOULDN'T BE frustrating or frightening. I'll come to you. Upgrades, troubleshooting, set-up, tutoring. Other electronics too. Call Monique **(413)237-1035.**

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BILL CAMERLIN. ADDITIONS, service changes, small jobs for homeowners, fire alarms. Fast, dependable, reasonable rates. Insured, free estimates. E280333. 24 hour emergency service. **(413)427-5862.**

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Electrician

JAMES FERRIS: LICENSE #E16303. Free estimates. Senior Discounts. Insured. 40 years experience. No job too small. Cell **(413)330-3682.**

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Call Adam **413-374-7779**

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Complete Drywall Service. Finishing, Painting, Ceilings (Smooth or Textured). 38 years experience. Fully insured

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for the week of Dec. 22

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Instruction

GC/BUILDER'S LICENSE COURSE * * Register by January 2nd Class begins January 5th-8th for Ludlow, Worcester, Pittsfield, Northampton, Greenfield * * Call CCI **1-888-833-5207** or www.statecertification.com

TRUCK DRIVERS NEEDED
A & **B** CDL CLASSES + **BUS**
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BOGACZ & SON Mechanical LLC Plumbing, heating, gaspiping, boilers, furnaces, water heaters, repairs. Free estimates. Fully insured. 25 yrs. Master Lic #15895 **(413)519-3961.**

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & Heating. Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. $10. Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505.**

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Prevent Emergencies Now
Call LINC'S
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ALL TYPES OF ROOFING, shingle, flat and slate. Call Local Builders **(413)626-5296.** Complete roofing systems and repairs. Fully licensed and insured. MA CS #102453. Lifetime warranty. Senior Discount. 24 hour service.

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24 HOUR SNOWPLOWING service, Palmer, Monson, Wilbraham, Hampden. Call now only a few openings left. **(413)519-5439.**

ART'S SNOW REMOVAL NOW accepting new accounts. On time friendly service. Driveways, walkways, lots, etc. Fully insured. Over 25 yrs experience. Art **(413)536-0605.**

SNOW PLOWING DRIVEWAYS from Belchertown Center to South Hadley Center. Average price $40. Call Leslie between 4-7 PM **(413)323-7911.**

SNOW PLOWING SERVICES Affordable, reliable and friendly. Accepting new customers. Residential and Commercial. Fully insured and equipped. Call George **(413)348-4891.**

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ATEKS TREE- HONEST, quality tree service. From pruning to house lot clearing. Fully insured. Free estimates **(413)687-3220.**

Tree Work

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Full Service Property Maintenance
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Fully Insured
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BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER - Financially needy? Call for assistance to spay/neuter your cat/dog. **(413)565-5383** CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR ANIMALS.

RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION
spayed/neutered, wormed, shots, heartworm tested, teeth cleaned

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HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS offered year round at our state of the art facility. Beginner to advanced. Ages 4 years to adult. Boarding, sales and leasing also available. Convenient location at Orion Farm in South Hadley. **(413)532-9753**
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COORDINATOR OF SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES Collaborate with school systems and agencies to coordinate school-based counseling services. Provide direct counseling services for children, adolescents and adults in a school-based setting and outpatient clinic. Supervise clinicians providing these services. LICWS and willingness to be on call, required. Apply to: J. Burgess, HR Director, #458CSBS, River Valley Counseling Center, Inc., 319 Beech St, Holyoke, MA 01040.

OPEN YOUR HEART and your home to a child in need. Become a foster parent with Massachusetts MENTOR! Earn $20,000 per year working from home! To get started call Nicole Konarski **(413)746-3768**

OUR PERSONAL CARE agency, Glenmeadow at Home, is looking for per-diem CNA/PCA's who live near Wilbraham to service our clients in that area. We are hiring for all shifts. Must have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license. If you are interested, please apply to: Glenmeadow, 24 Tabor Crossing, Longmeadow, MA 01106. Please bring a photo ID and the contact information of 3 people we may contact as references (supervisors preferred).

Help Wanted

PACKAGE STORE CLERK- P/T Register experience. Hours vary. Some weekend work required. 21+ only. Please call Carol, leave message **(413)736-5664.**

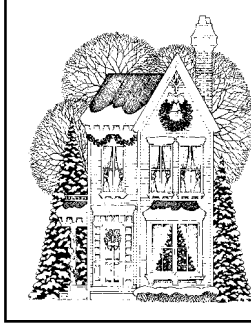
Business Opp.

LIQUOR STORE FOR sale. Established location, 30 yrs. Full license, turn key opportunity. Over $600K Merchandise, $150K lottery in sales. 2,000 sq.ft leased store in Westfield. $185K plus inventory separate. Call **(413)267-0497.**

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Fax: (413) 536-5334

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NORTH BROOKFIELD: 3 BR , 3 bath Colonial that was updated 2 years ago. With over 2400 sf, the possibilities are endless, very unique. Call for details. $199,900

PALMER: Set on almost 5 acres, this 2 BR Ranch may be for you. Located on a dead end street near Pike for convenience. Must see! $169,900

WARE: Motivated Seller, 3 BR Colonial with central location and original charm affordably priced at $89,900

WARREN: Charming and inviting antique Colonial on corner lot, 2 car garage, FP family room, spacious. with inground pool. $177,000

WARREN: Investors take notice, Handyman Special! 2 BR, spacious rooms, hardwoods, screened in porch. Being sold "As Is". $87,900 (136 Quaboag St)

Dorrinda O'Keefe-Shea	**978-434-1990**
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Ruth Vadnais	**413-348-8916**
Jill Stolgitis	**413-477-8780**
Shalene Friedhaber	**413-593-6656**
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Bruce Martin	**508-523-0114**
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Mobile Homes

BEAUTIFUL MOBILE HOME for sale in Blue Bird Acres Mobile Home Park. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Comes with furnace appliances, washer dryer & vinyl windows. Buy now for $26,999. Great home call Don at: **413-784-3946**

WEST SPRINGFIELD, 1986, 2 or 3 bedrooms. Brush Hill, 14'x70' also 20'x30' porch. New shingles, porch, garage, shed $84,900. **413-593-9961**
DASAP.MHVILLAGE.COM

For Rent

AGAWAM 3 BR duplex, 1.5 bath, large kitchen w/ eat-in area, deck, full basement, w/d hook-up, gas heat, NO PETS $1,200 mo + utilities. **(413)736-3352.**

AGAWAM- TOWNHOUSE Apt – Newly renovated 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, basement with laundry hook-up. Quiet dead-end street, $850.00 monthly, utilities not included, sorry no pets/ smokers. Available immediately, first, last, security required. **413-364-4716.**

BELCHERTOWN - 1 MONTH FREE, LARGE, MODERN 2 bedroom apt. on bus route, w/w carpeting, large yard, laundry on premises, off-street parking in plowed lot, appliances. $775/ mo **(413)323-1119 (413)537-7080**

For Rent

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

CHICOPEE - 2 Bedroom Apartment for rent. Heat and Hot Water included in rent of $800.00. Call **413-533-5000** or **413-237-7196.**

CHICOPEE, ALDENVILLE REMODELED. 3rd FL, 2 BEDROOMS, APPLIANCES INCLUDED, W/D IN UNIT. NO PETS, $800.00/MONTH PLUS UTILITIES. PICS CRAIGSLIST **(413)533-9028.**

GRANBY MA- 2 Br Apt. $850 per month includes heat and hot water! Excellent suburban location. Coin laundry and storage. First, Last and Sec. No pets. Must have good credit. **413-566-5837**

PALMER 1BR - Quiet Secure Country Location. Locked Storage & Laundry in Basement. K/DR Combo - LR-Full Bath. Nice Layout. No Smoke/Pets. 1st/last/sec. $700.00. Breton Est. **413-283-6940**

For Rent

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

HERITAGE TRAIL APARTMENTS, West Brookfield now accepting applications. 1 bedrooms starting at $600/mo. Heat and hot water included. Call **774-200-1520.**

LUDLOW 181 STATE St. 2 BR apt. stove & fridge. No pets. W/D hook-up. $700/ mo First, Last, Security **(413)315-0368**

LUDLOW 181 STATE St. 3 BR apt. stove & fridge. No pets. W/D hook-up. $800/ mo First, Last, Security **(413)315-0368**

LUDLOW: 1 PLUS bedroom, 1 bath, stove and refrigerator, no utilities, **no pets, non-smoking**. $550 per month. Call **(413)583-6896**.

MONSON 2 BR apt. 1st fl. off-street parking, w/d hook-up, No pets. 1st, last, security deposit $750/ mo **(413)537-1825.**

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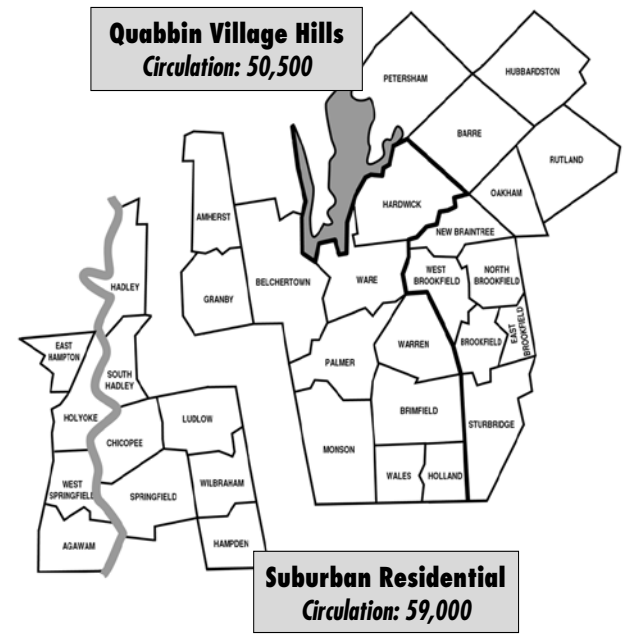
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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, Dec. 13

THE AGAWAM ROBOTICS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will host the 7th annual FIRST Lego League Agawam Qualifying Tournament / JrFLL Expo from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Agawam Junior High School. This event is free and open to the public.

A HOLIDAY BAZAAR will take place at Community Granger 382, 47 North West St., Feeding Hills and will include a bake sale. All proceeds will benefit the building fund. Snow date, Dec. 14

A LIVE NATIVITY at the Church of Redemption, 50 Maple St., Agawam, from 4 to 7 p.m. will include carols and refreshments. Animals courtesy of Forest Park Zoo.

Sunday, Dec. 14

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., and will feature a presentation about the Peace Silver Dollars. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

SING WITH THE ANGELS in the Gothic Sanctuary at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield to be presented by the Chamber Singers. No admission charge.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Deena Maniscalchi, DMFA, highlighting "Let it Snow: Winter Scenes in Japanese Prints." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER, 1590 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will present "On Stage Live – The Christmas Family" at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Nursery care provided up to 2 years old. For more information, call 413-782-7171.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

THE GFWC AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. A social gathering will begin at 6:15 p.m. New members are welcome.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

DONATIONS OF UNWRAPPED TOYS to support the Toys for Tots program will be accepted at ceremonies held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Agawam Town Hall. There will also be a Toys for Tots drop-off box at town hall in the lobby during working hours

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER, 1590 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will present "On Stage Live – The Christmas Family" at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Nursery care provided up to 2 years old. For more information, call 413-782-7171.

Thursday, Dec. 18

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Victorian Christmas Traditions," featuring Anne Barrett, historian, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is $4 ($2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488.

Applause Series continues with 'The Magic of Daniel GreenWolf'

The 11th season of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues on Friday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., when the "slightly mad" Celtic Magician Daniel GreenWolf brings his special brand of magic to the Agawam Senior Center.

"The Magic of Daniel GreenWolf" is a performance that combines highly visual magic, theatrical storytelling, exhilarating Irish music, interactive comedy and thrilling danger and wraps it all in a Celtic theme that has been described as "a witty, modern-day Celtic Viking. Like James Joyce with a broad sword."

Daniel GreenWolf is an award-winning magician, writer, and slightly mad Irishman. He has been voted as one of the top five solo variety acts in the United States by the Renaissance Festival Podcast and Renaissance Magazine for five years in a row. GreenWolf has performed thousands of shows for hundreds of clients and venues including the Big E, the Mark Twain House, Bank of America, and the United States Coast Guard.



Submitted photo

The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues Friday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. with "The Magic of Daniel GreenWolf."

This event is sponsored by Hampden Bank.

The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

Additional information on each of the Applause Series events is available at www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Sunday, Dec. 21

A COMMUNITY LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE and Christmas Carol Sing-Along will take place at 5 p.m. at Agawam Veterans Green. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

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Charting a course for college

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications Correspondent

Agawam eighth graders have yet to graduate from junior high school, but many are already thinking about college.

They got a jump start on their college planning when Westfield State University President Elizabeth Preston, along with members of her administrative cabinet, faculty, and several students, visited AJHS in late October.

They fielded questions from eighth graders, discussed college life, talked about preparing for college, and shared what's expected of collegians — both from the perspective of professors and students.

"It's rare to get a university president and administrative cabinet to visit a junior high school," said AJHS Principal Norm Robbins. The visit — initiated by AJHS — is part of an eight-year plan to increase the number of AJHS students who are prepared to take college courses.

"Not every student will go on to college — but that doesn't mean we can't set the bar high and give students something to which they can aspire," added Robbins.



Submitted photos

Agawam School Superintendent William Sapelli joined AJHS Principal Norm Robbins for a group photo in the AJHS lobby with representatives from Westfield State University during their visit to the school. Back row, from left: Sapelli, WSU President Elizabeth Preston, WSU student Tori Landry and WSU biology professor Jennifer Hanselman. Front row, from left: Robbins, WSU Director for Enrollment Management Kelly Hart, AJHS science teacher Deb LaMotte, WSU students Angelo Burgos, Christopher Horwitz and Rebecca DiVico, and WSU Vice President for Student Affairs Carlton Pickron.

Academic teams organized by colleges

To help inspire students to prepare for college, AJHS created partnerships with seven area colleges and universities. Each AJHS academic team, comprised of teachers and students, adopted one of those college or university names.

In addition to Team WSU, there is Team Springfield College, Team UConn, Team UMass, Team University of Rhode Island, and Team Western New England University. Only members of Team WSU attended the WSU presentation. Robbins said he's trying to arrange for the other eighth grade teams to meet with their respective college or university.

Preston, her administrative staff, and four WSU students kicked off their presentation with words of advice about college life and a short video about the university. AJHS students then returned to their homerooms for more informal conversations with the WSU guests. The presentation and conversations were aimed at getting students to think about college.

"Many had no idea what college is or that college is within their reach. Many think it's totally out of their families' budget," said WSU spokesperson Molly Watson.

AJHS students got an "up-close look at what college encompasses" added Watson. She said the university representatives wanted to encourage eighth graders to look at college in a different way when they enter high school.

Students gain new perspective on college

Several eighth grade students and teachers said the visit was a valuable experience. "The presentation was very cool," said Ben Mielnikowski. Planning a career as an architect, he wants to hone his geometry skills so he can "design and build nice structures."

Mielnikowski said he realized he "definitely needs better time management so I have time to study for tests and projects in college."

English teacher Anita Quinn called it an "eye-opener" for eighth graders. "College isn't that far away. This visit helped them see that what they're doing now does matter."

Quinn said her students also heard the message that good writing skills and good study habits are important if they want to succeed in college and in a career. "Talking with WSU faculty and students gave eighth graders a new perspective on college. It was almost like being on campus."

One of the things Yazrali Batista liked hearing was the opportunity to study abroad and visit other countries

"That's something I hope to do one day," Batista said. "College is a place to meet new people and make new friends."

Batista, who plans to be a veterinarian, said he would like to visit the WSU campus in person. He may get his wish. AJHS and WSU are working on a campus tour for eighth graders this spring.

Brianna Santucci hopes to become a kindergarten teacher. The eighth grader said the video presentation was very helpful. "It gave me an idea of what college actually looks like — and where I might want to go when I graduate high school."

Spanish teacher Pam Rivers said the WSU presentation was "well done," covering many aspects of college life. "This visit was very useful in motivating students to do better in school and to start planning their futures. Many of my students are now more excited about attending college."

WSU's Watson said AJHS did "a terrific job" of organizing the event and making WSU representatives feel welcome. "Most important, teachers did a great job of preparing students. Everyone from WSU was very impressed with the thoughtfulness of the students' questions."

'Never too early to start planning'

College to career readiness is a major goal of the Common Core standards used for Agawam students. Robbins said the college partnerships and the WSU visit help expose students to college early on so they know what classes they need to take for college. "We would be doing our students a disservice if we didn't do this."

He said the goal is to not only encourage students to consider college, but also to prepare them for the rigors of college. "We want our students to understand that it's never too early to start planning and that college can be an actual possibility if they prepare for it."

Joseph Pellegrino is good with numbers and wants to major in business administration in college. The WSU visit helped him to understand that he'll enjoy more freedom to set his college schedule, but he'll be responsible for preparing for his classes. "That's why now is the time for me to start focusing and preparing for college."



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